GAME CLUB

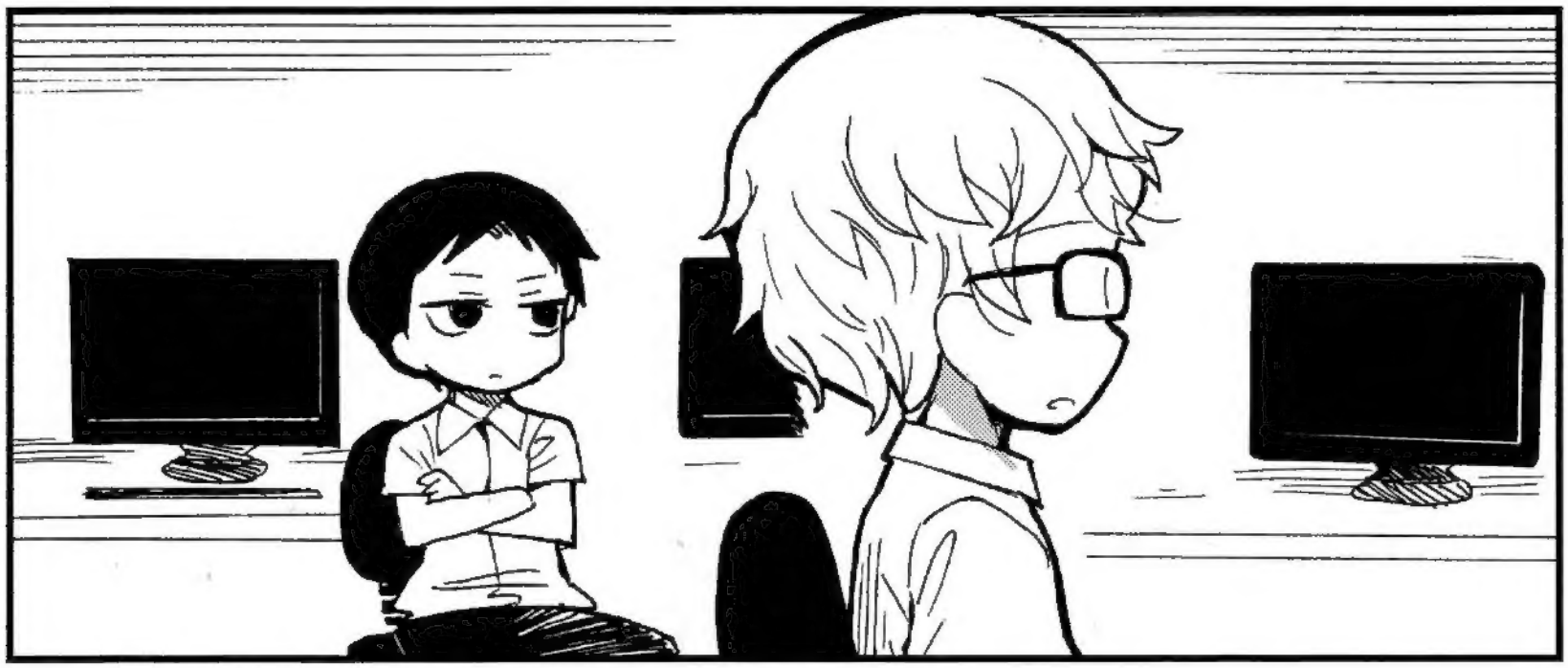
FINAL

I'LL GIVE YOU A QUICK RUNDOWN OF WHAT HAPPENED, VICE PRESIDENT...

WELL...

THEY SORT OF ENDED UP GOING AFTER EACH OTHER'S THROAT...

SO BASICALLY... AS A RESULT OF TRYING TO FORCE OUR TWO NEWCOMERS AND THEIR INHERENTLY INCOMPATIBLE PERSONALITIES TOGETHER,

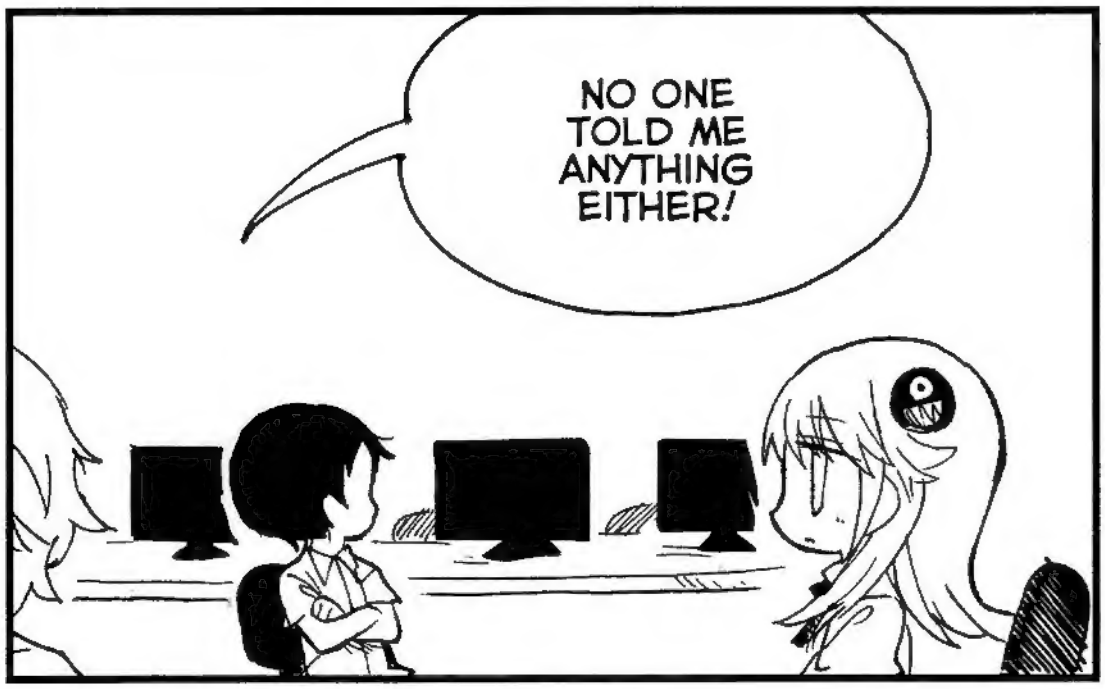


SHE THOUGHT THAT SUWA-KUN HAD DROWNED...

HE THEN JUMPED INTO THE RIVER AFTER IT AND WENT MISSING. MORISHITA-CHAN FELT GUILTY ABOUT THIS...

MORISHITA-CHAN THREW AWAY SUWA-KUN'S RUBBER DUCK, WHICH WAS MORE IMPORTANT TO HIM THAN HIS OWN LIFE...

HE'S NOT EXACTLY UNHURT, THOUGH...
HOWEVER, HE'S BEEN FOUND, WHICH IS GREAT NEWS.

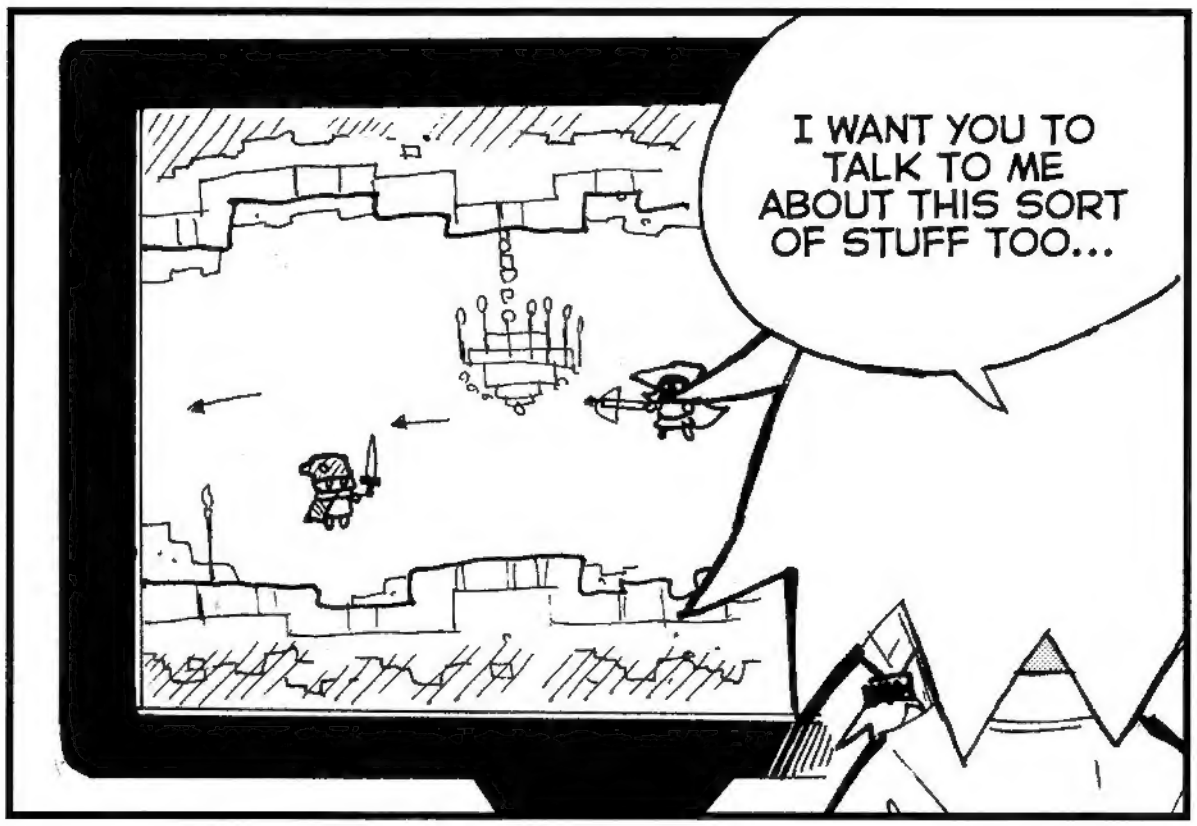

NO ONE TOLD ME ANYTHING EITHER!

UH... NO ONE TOLD ME ABOUT ANY OF THIS...

I KEPT BESHIKO OUT OF THIS TOO.
SO I WAS BEING LEFT OUT, HUH...?

WHAT ARE YOU EVEN SAYING!? THAT REALLY GRINDS MY GEARS!
AS IF! OF COURSE I MIND!

YEAH...
BUT YOU DON'T MIND, RIGHT, BESHIKO?


I WANT YOU TO TALK TO ME ABOUT THIS SORT OF STUFF TOO...

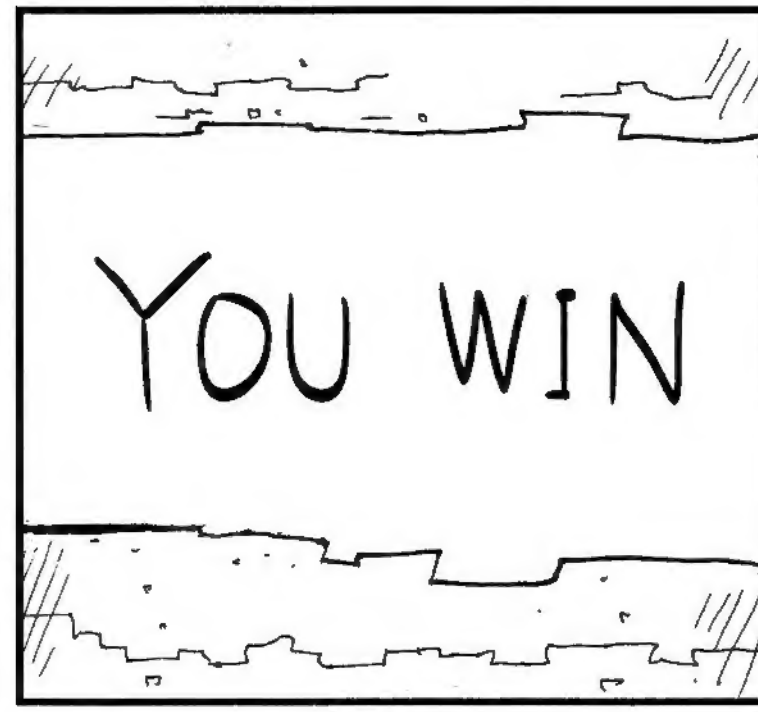
HONESTLY, PREZ, YOU ALWAYS KEEP THINGS TO YOURSELF...
I...

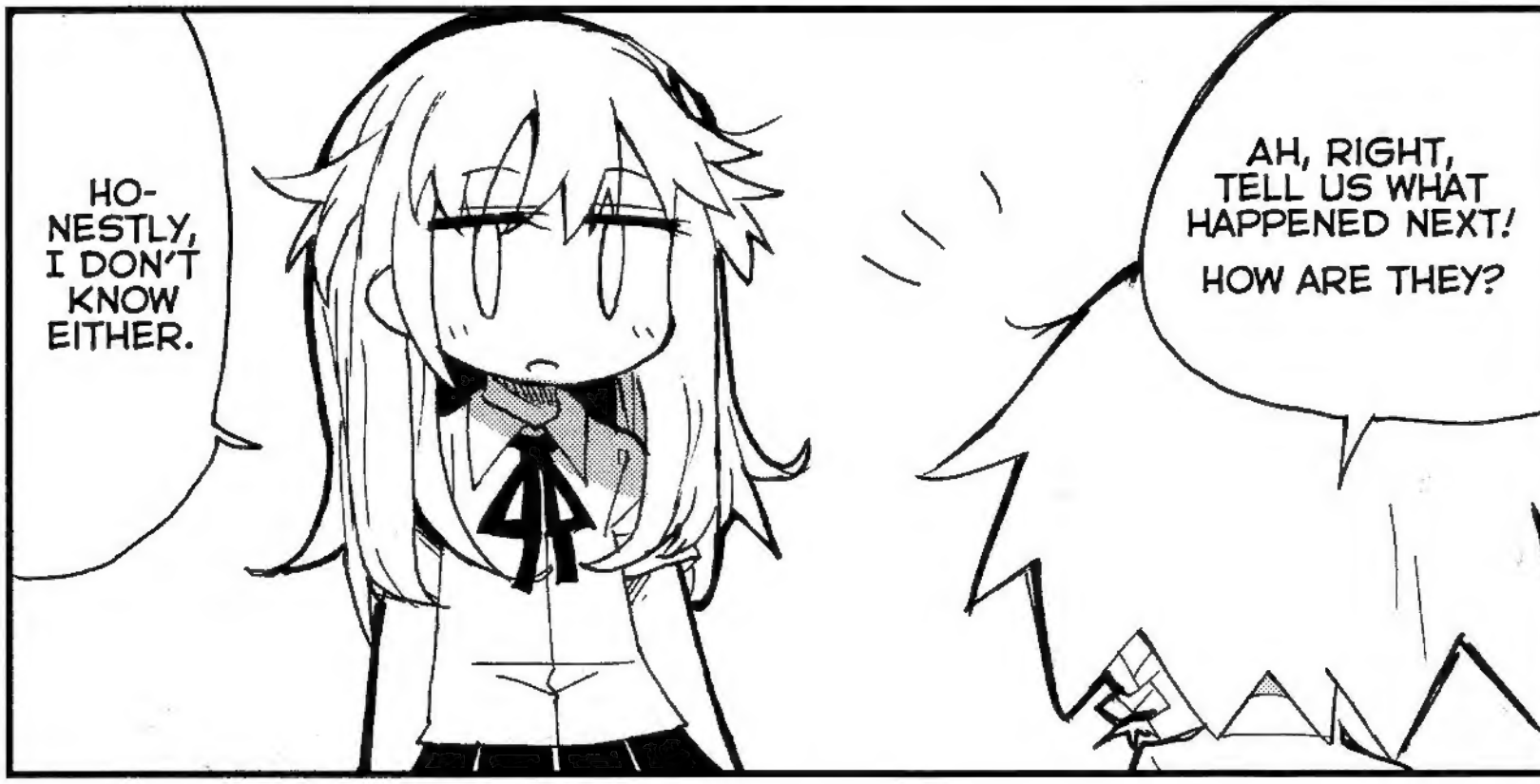
YOU'RE OBVIOUSLY BUSY DOING SOMETHING ELSE RIGHT NOW...

JUST GOT DISTRACTED BY THE GAME FOR A BIT THERE...
DON'T WORRY, I'VE BEEN LISTENING.

I FI-NALLY GOT HIM!
WHEW!

ANYWAY... WHAT WERE WE TALKING ABOUT?


YOU WIN

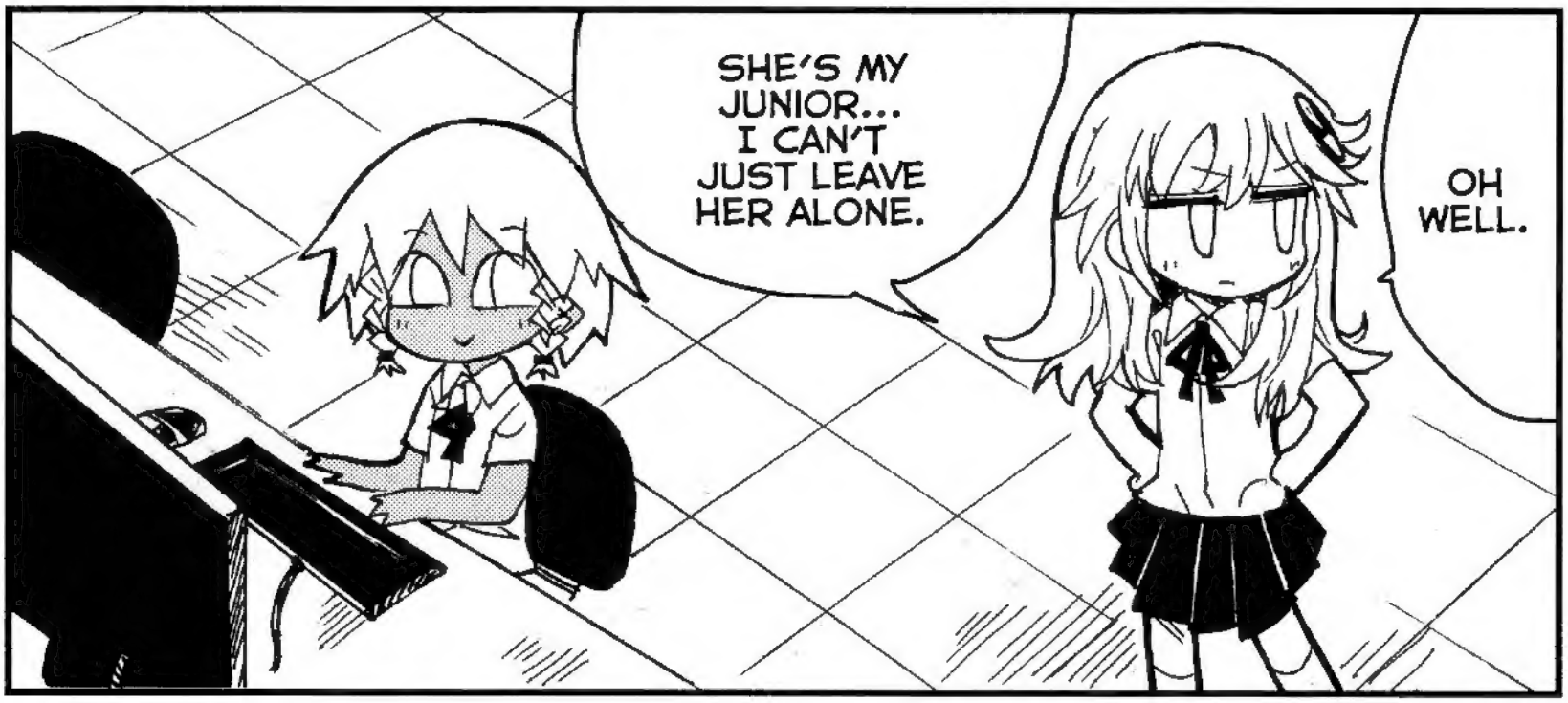

HO-NESTLY, I DON'T KNOW EITHER.
AH, RIGHT, TELL US WHAT HAPPENED NEXT! HOW ARE THEY?

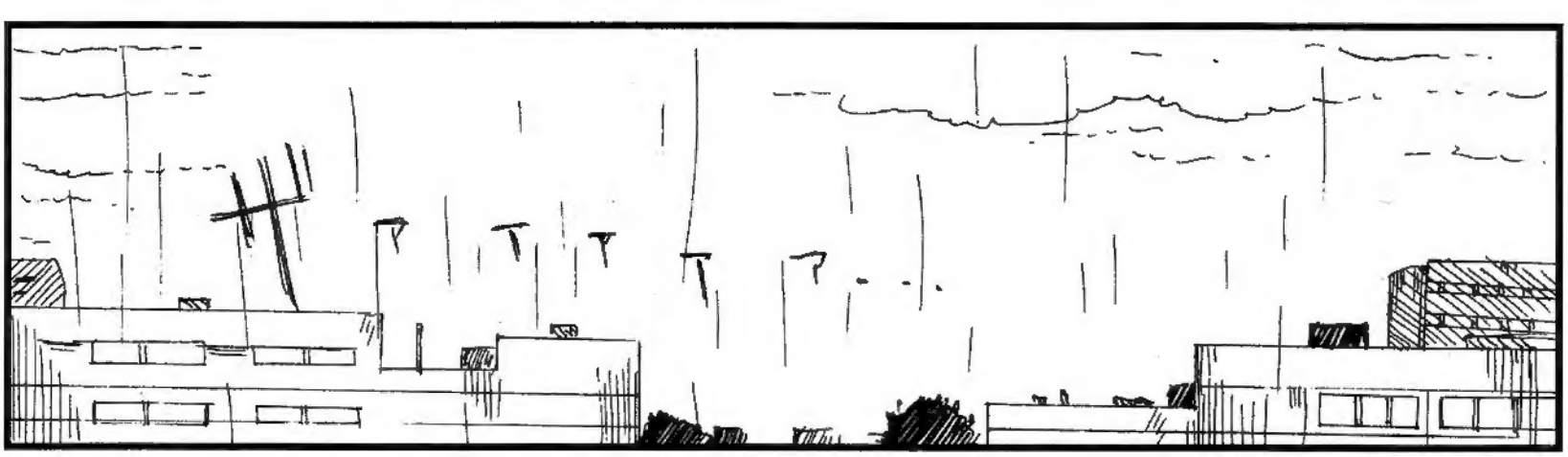
SHE'S STILL NOT GOING TO SCHO-OL?
WHAT !?

COME TO THINK OF IT, MORISHITA-CHAN'S ABSENT AGAIN TODAY...

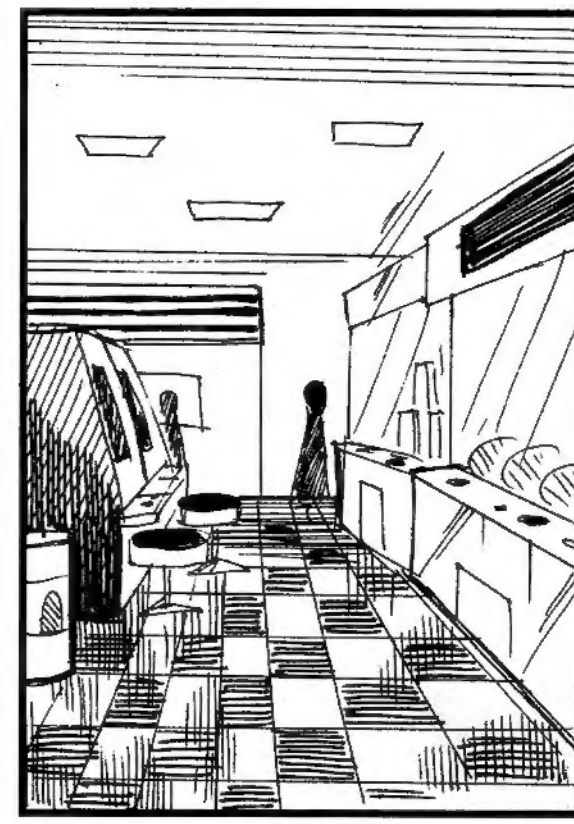
HMM, WHAT SHOULD WE DO...?
I FEEL LIKE SHE'D TELL US SHE ISN'T GOING TO STOP LOOKING FOR THE DUCK UNTIL SHE FINDS IT...

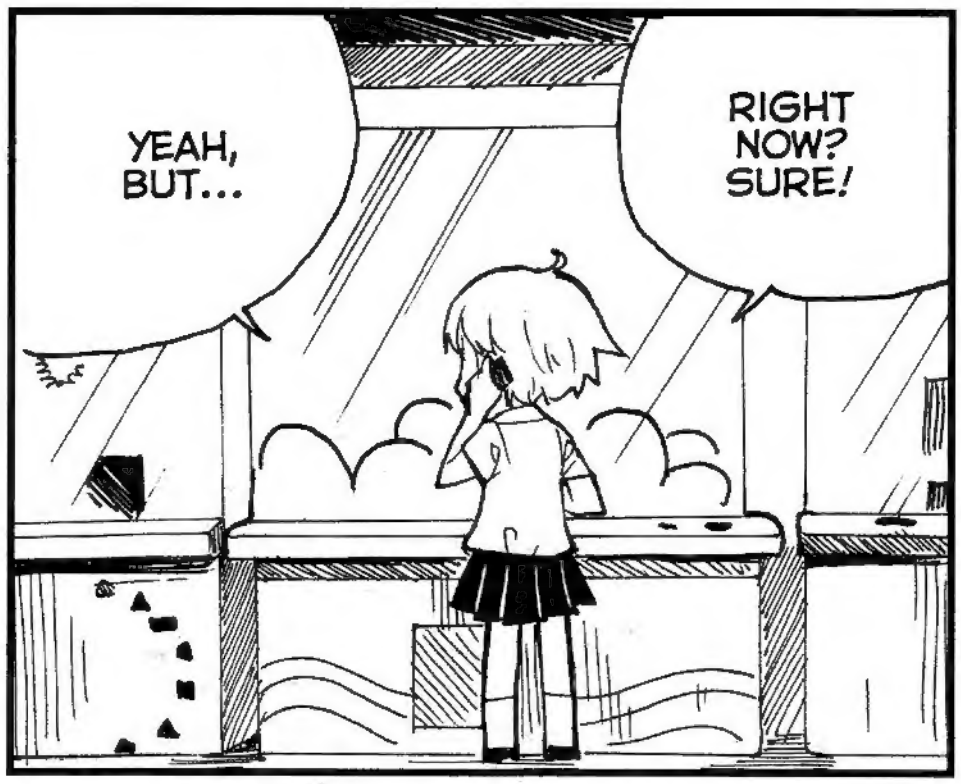
OH MAN, THAT'S SERIOUS... BET IT'S NOT BECAUSE SHE CAUGHT A COLD.
PRO-BABLY.


SHE'S MY JUNIOR... I CAN'T JUST LEAVE HER ALONE.
OH WELL.



...HELLO, MORISHITA-CHAN?

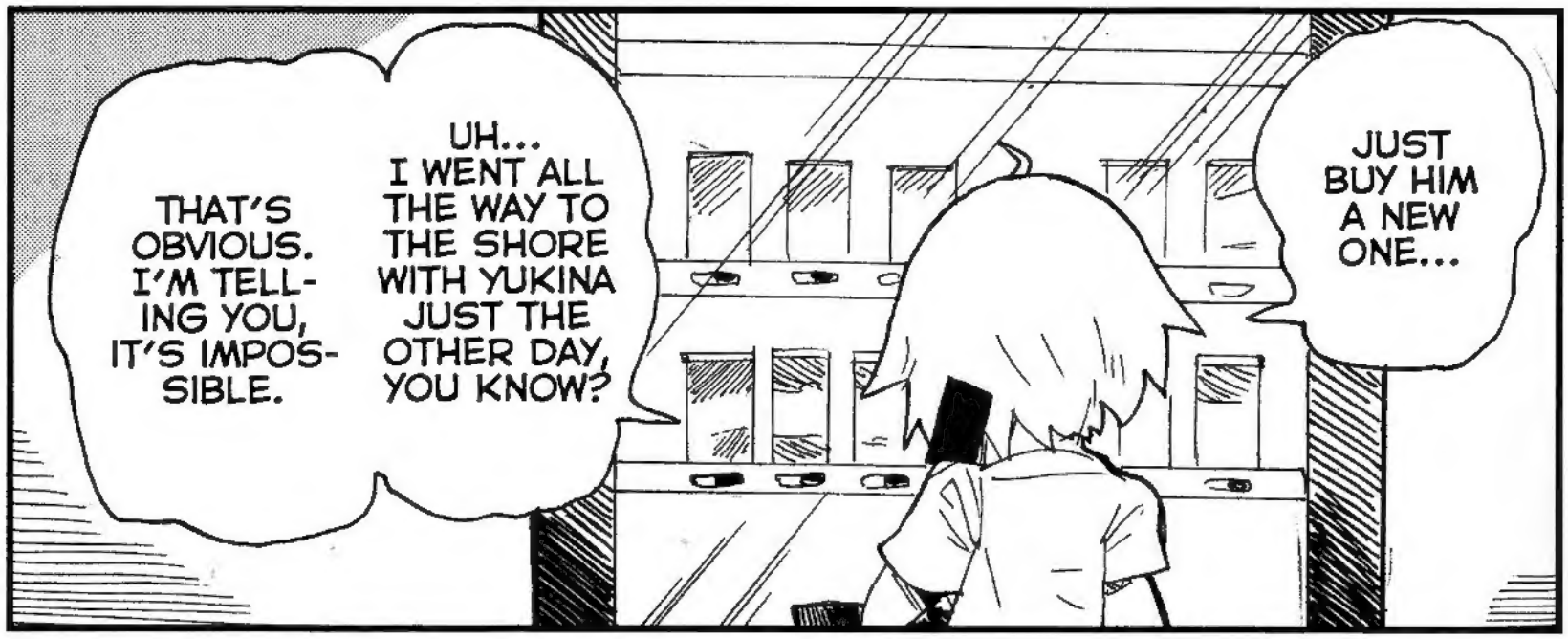


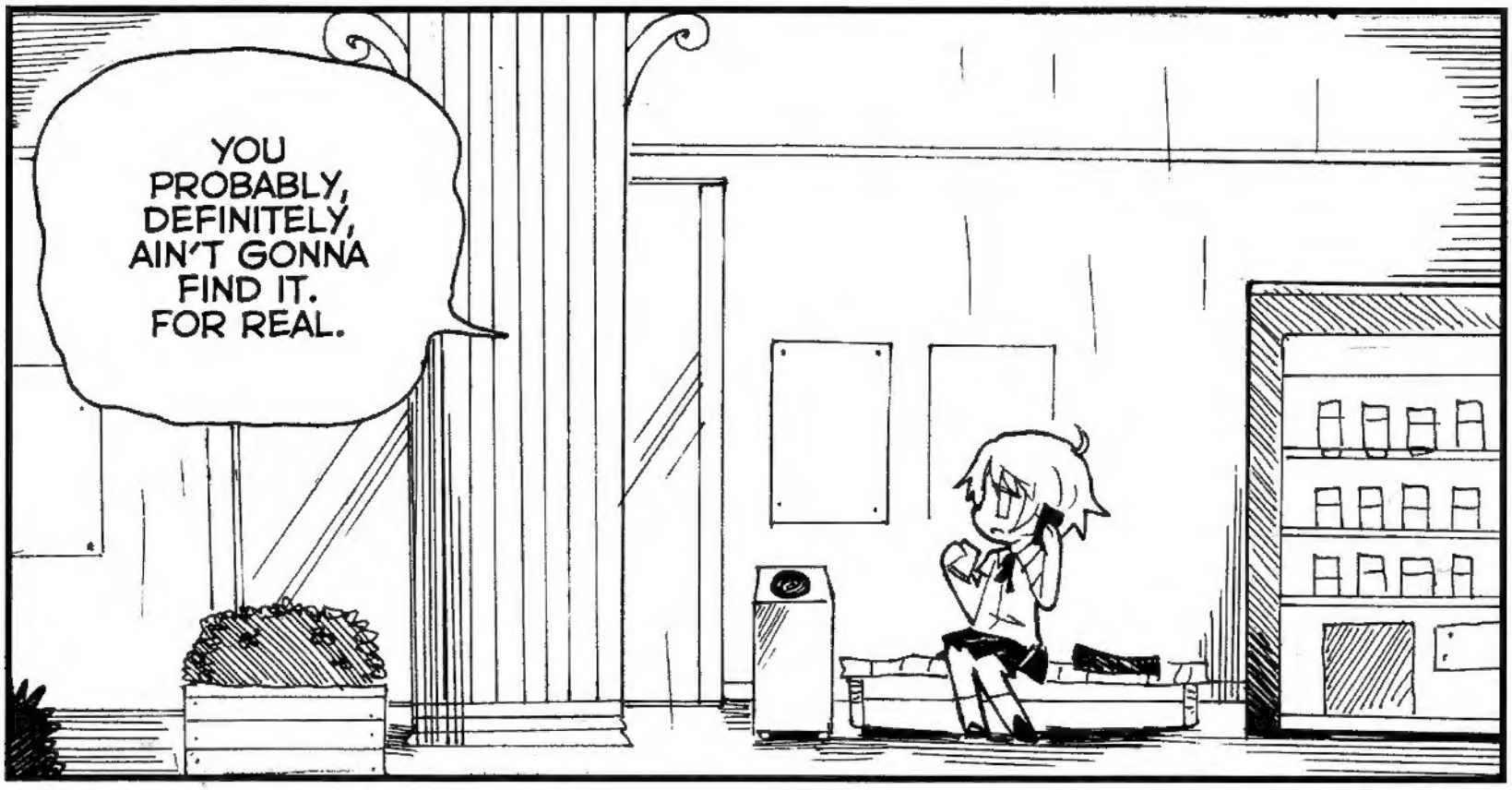

YEAH, BUT...
RIGHT NOW? SURE!

IT'S FINE. WHAT'S UP?

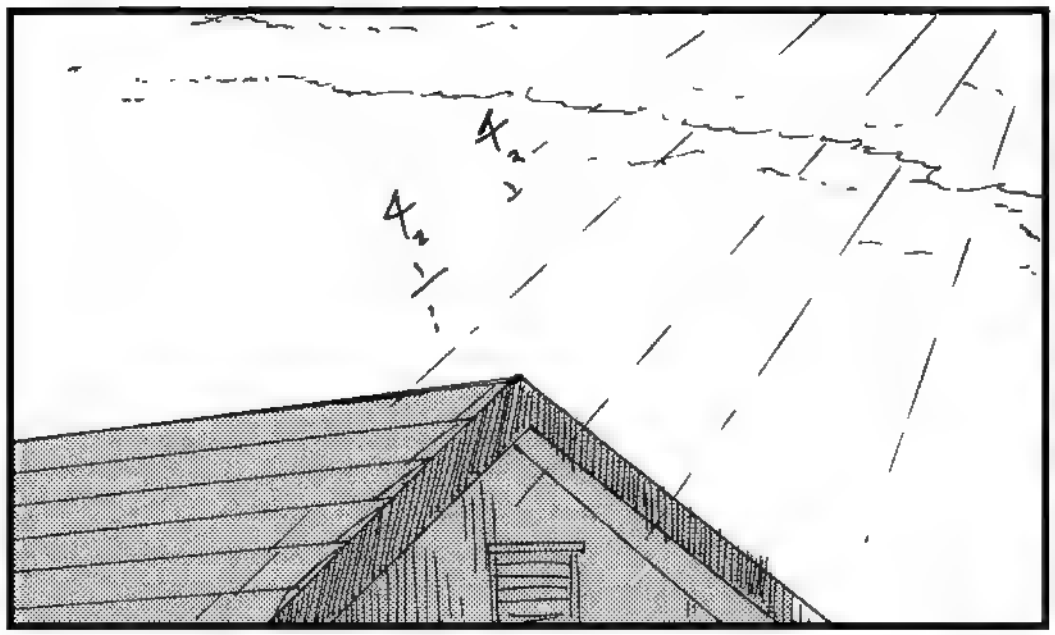
WHY DO I HAVE TO...
THAT'S SUCH A PAIN!

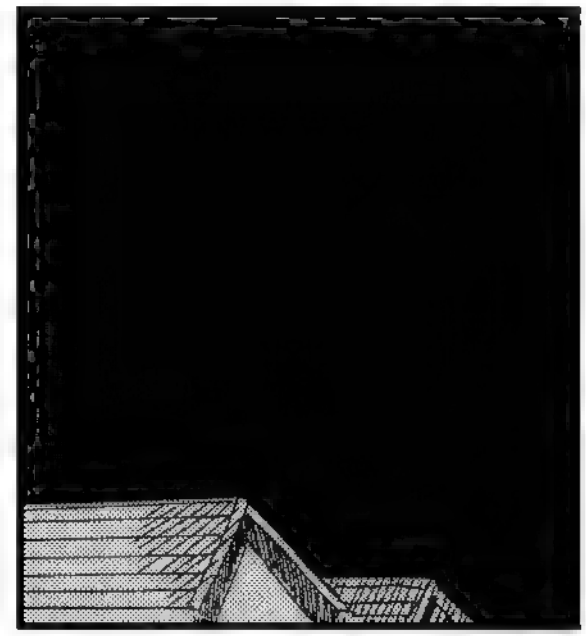
HUUUH!? AGAIN?

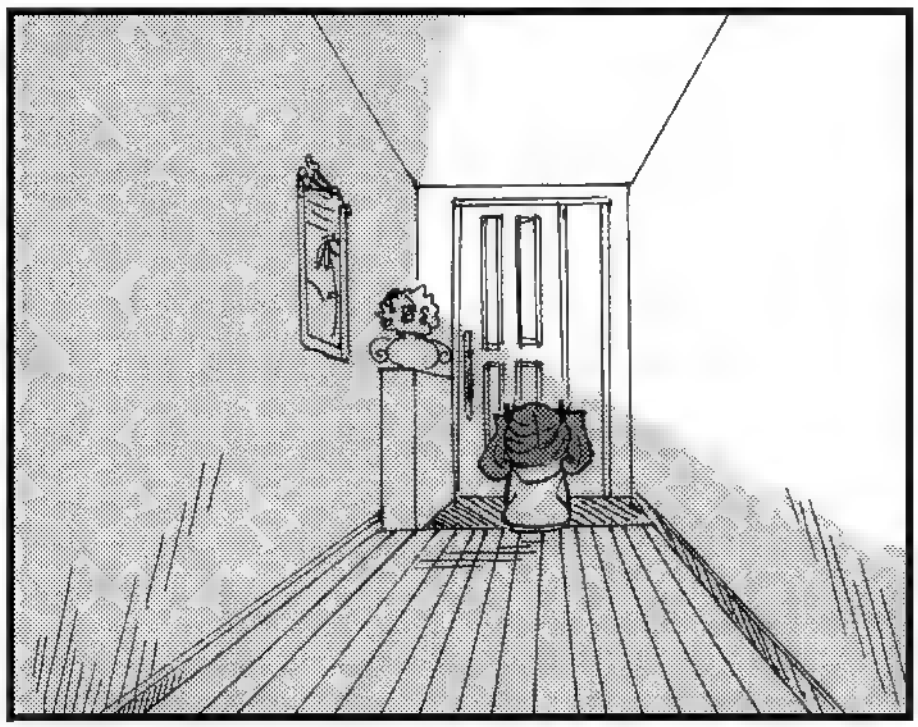

THAT'S OBVIOUS. I'M TELLING YOU, IT'S IMPOSSIBLE.
UH... I WENT ALL THE WAY TO THE SHORE WITH YUKINA JUST THE OTHER DAY, YOU KNOW?
JUST BUY HIM A NEW ONE...

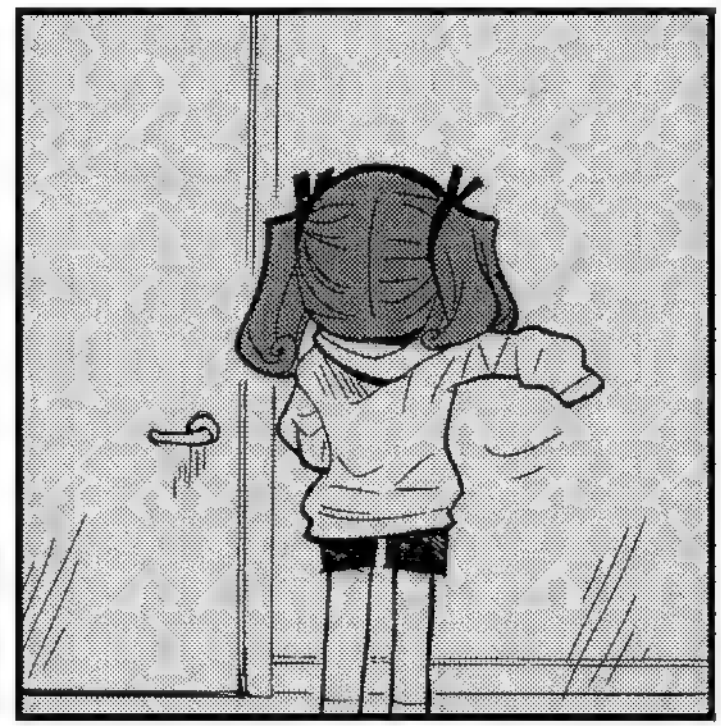

YOU PROBABLY, DEFINITELY, AIN'T GONNA FIND IT. FOR REAL.

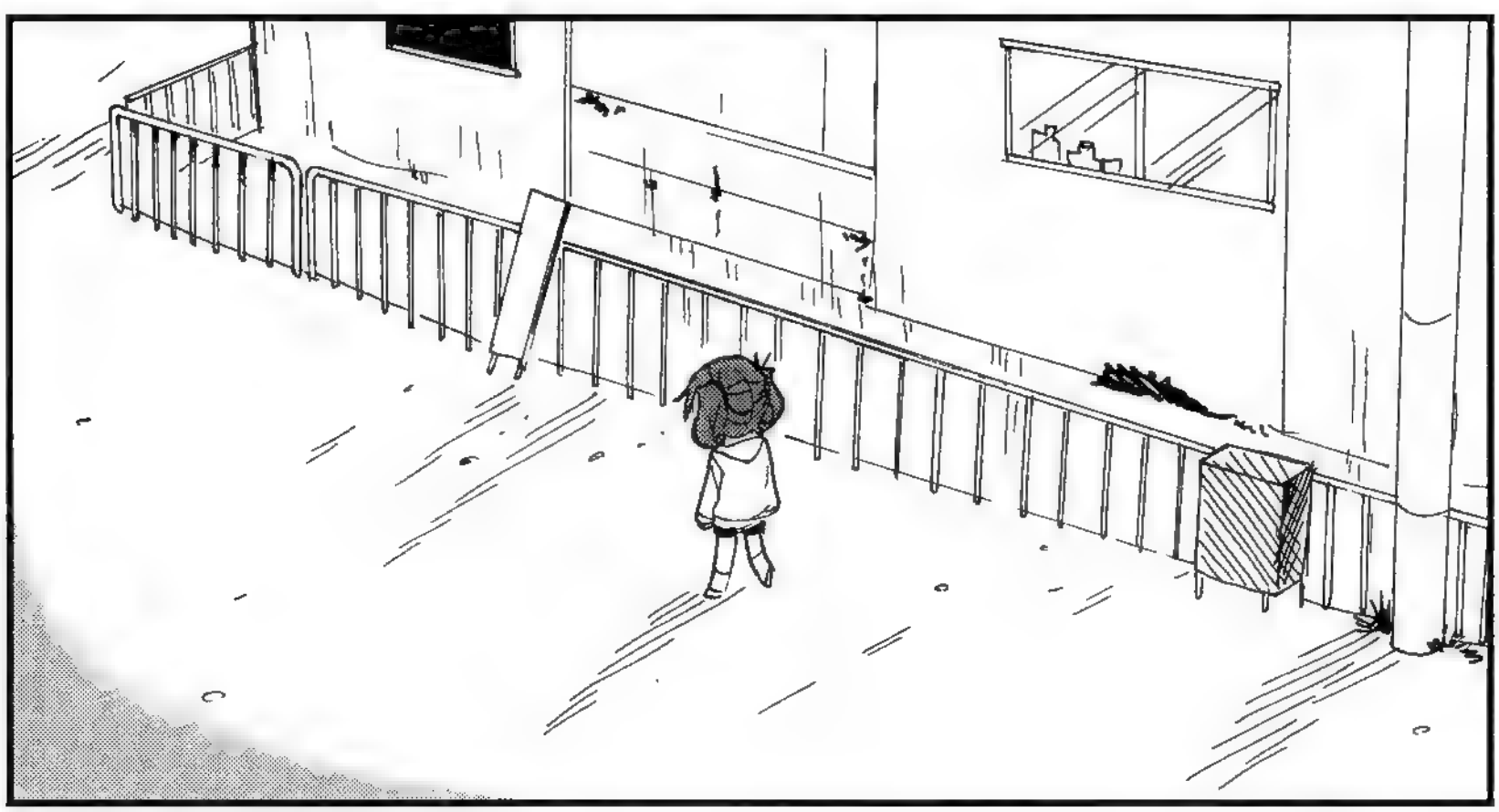
NAH... NO IDEA.
SAY YOU'RE LOOKING FOR A RUBBER DUCK YOU LOST.
HOW ABOUT YOU TRY PUTTING UP POSTERS?

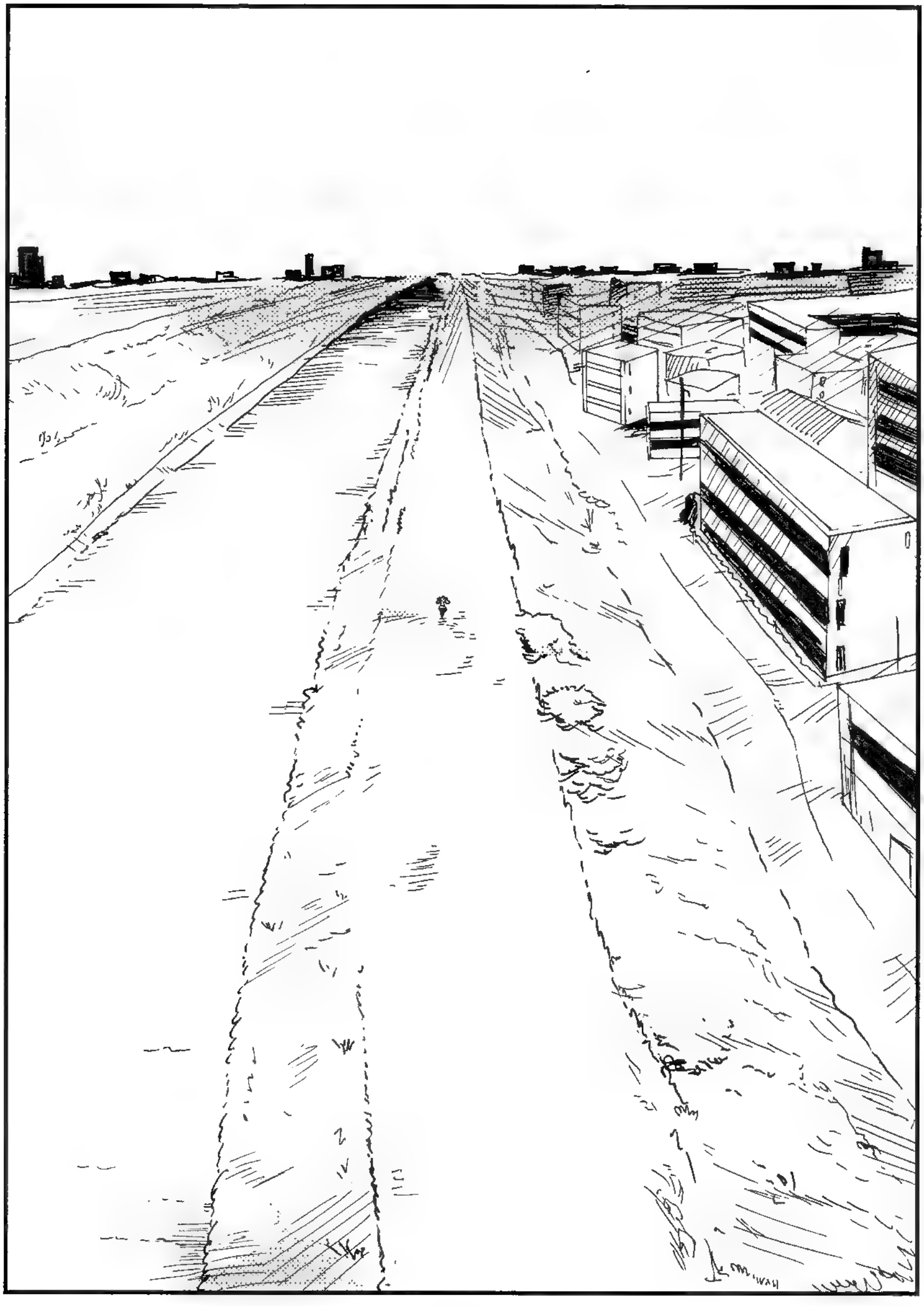


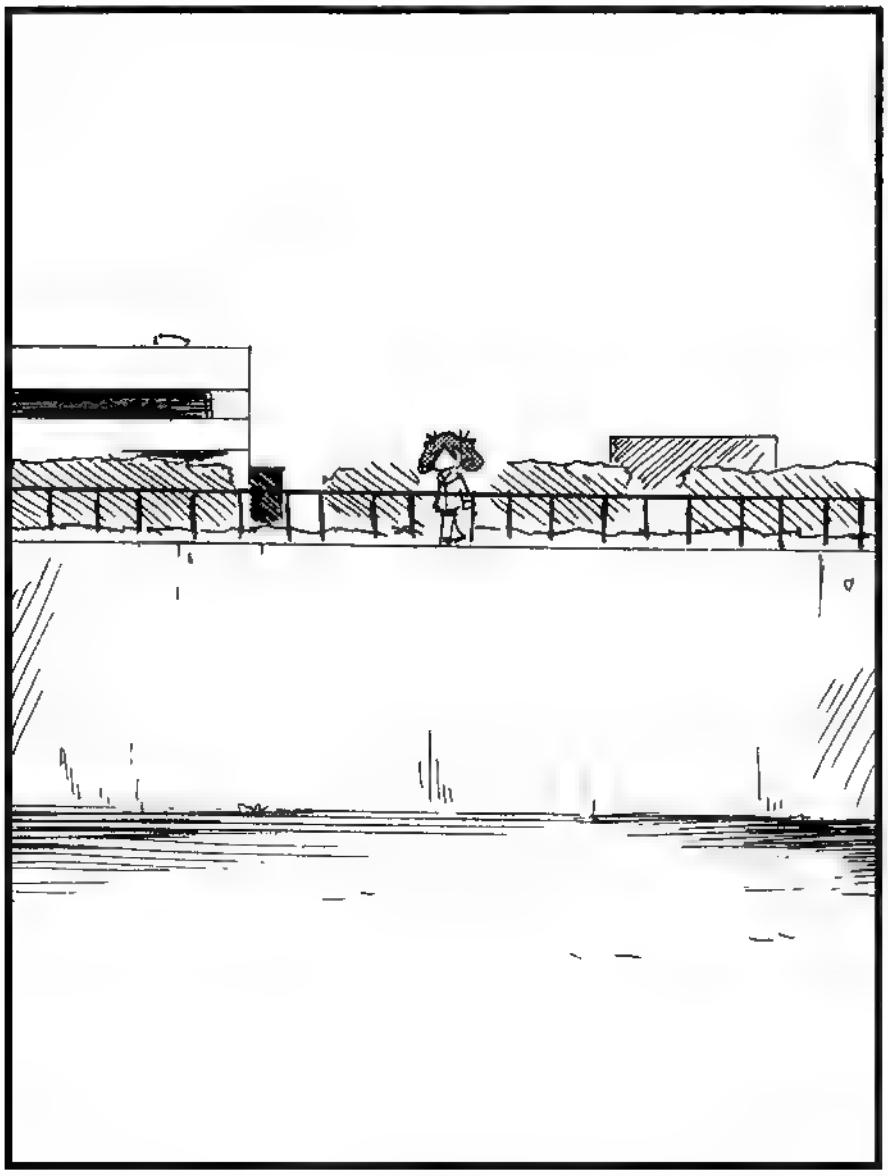


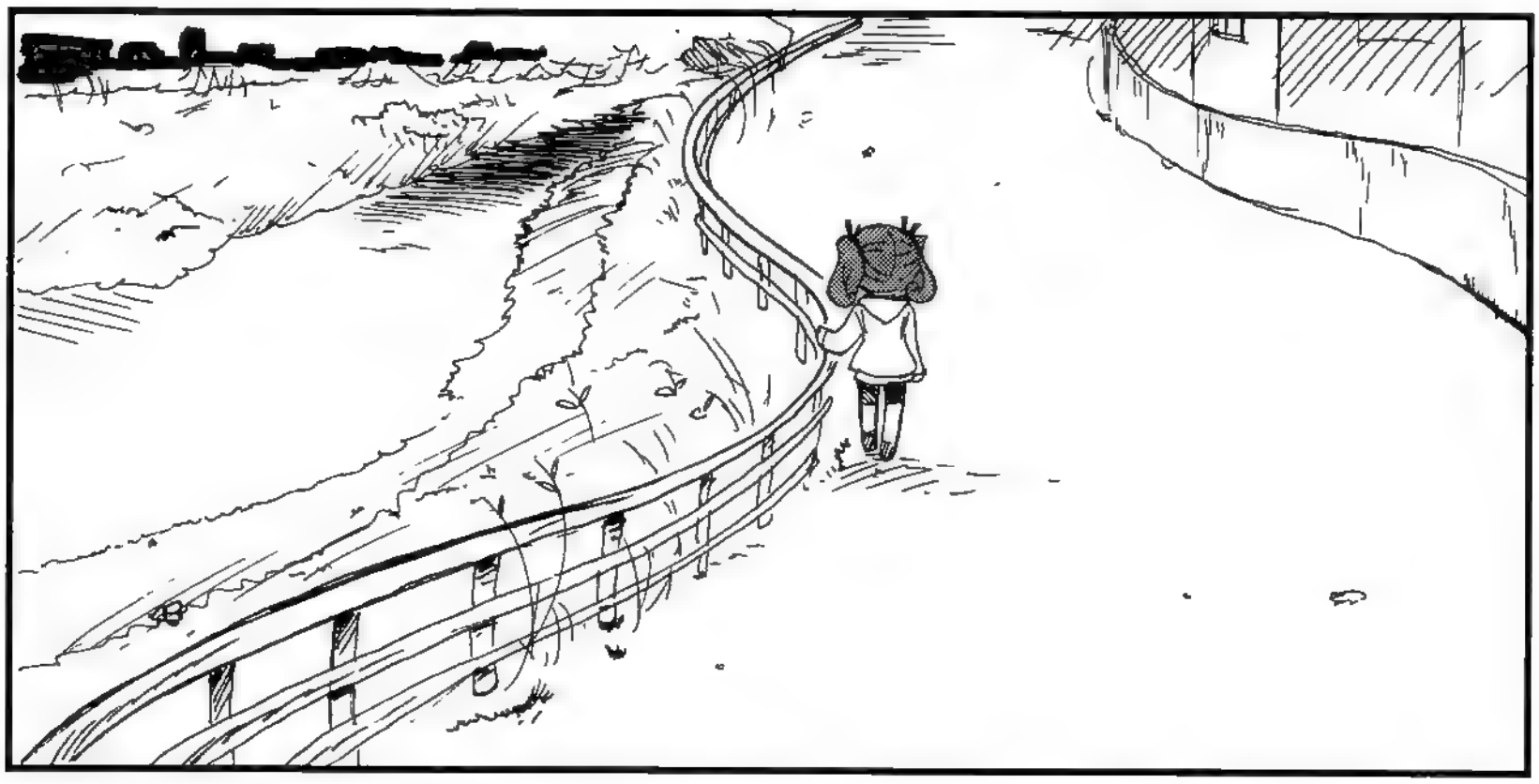


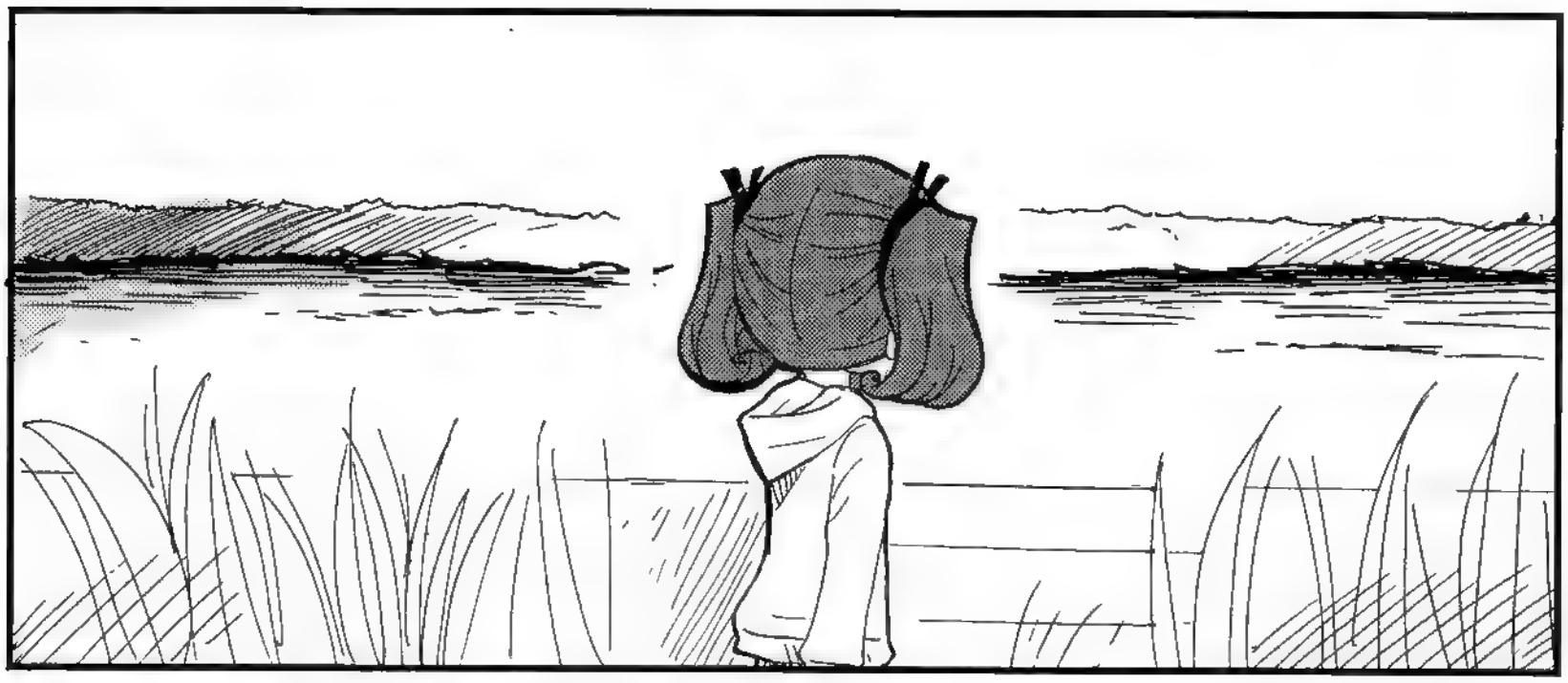


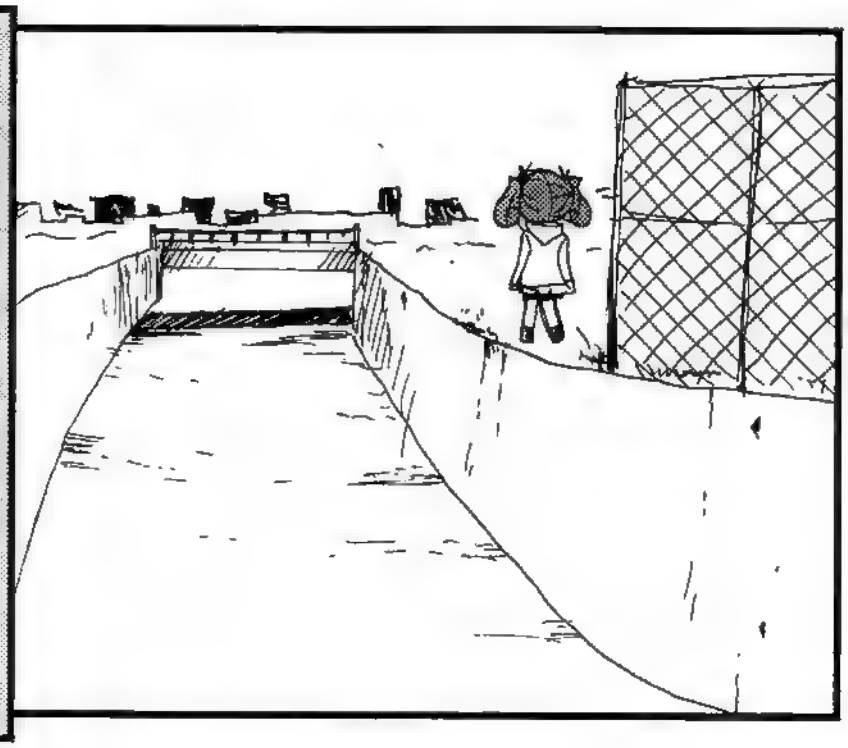






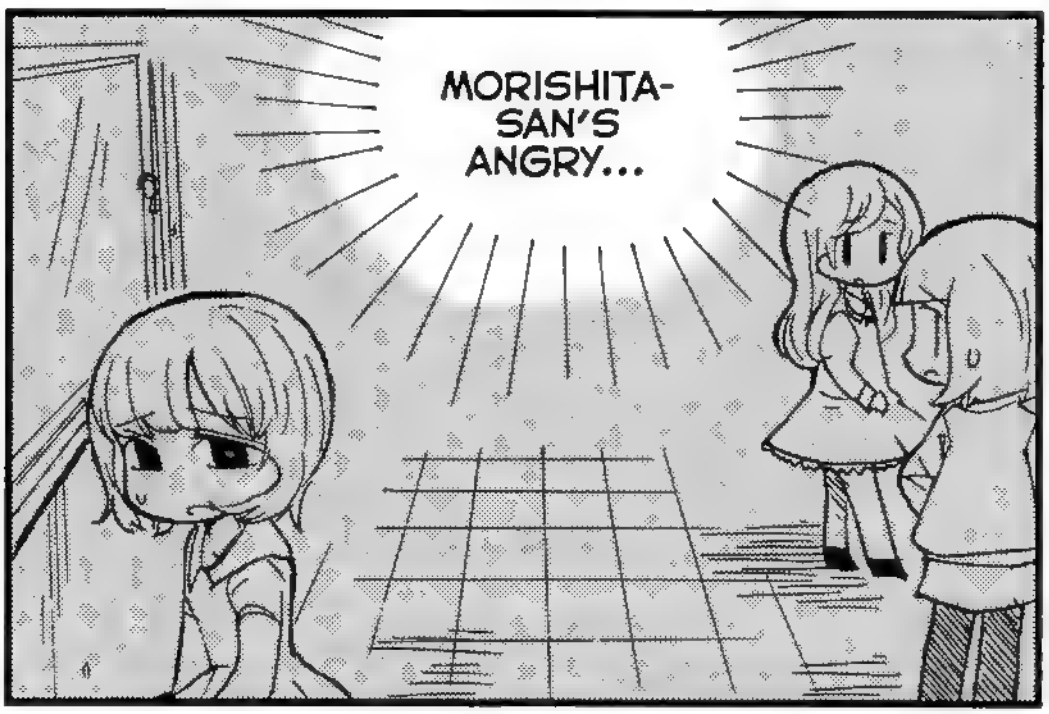




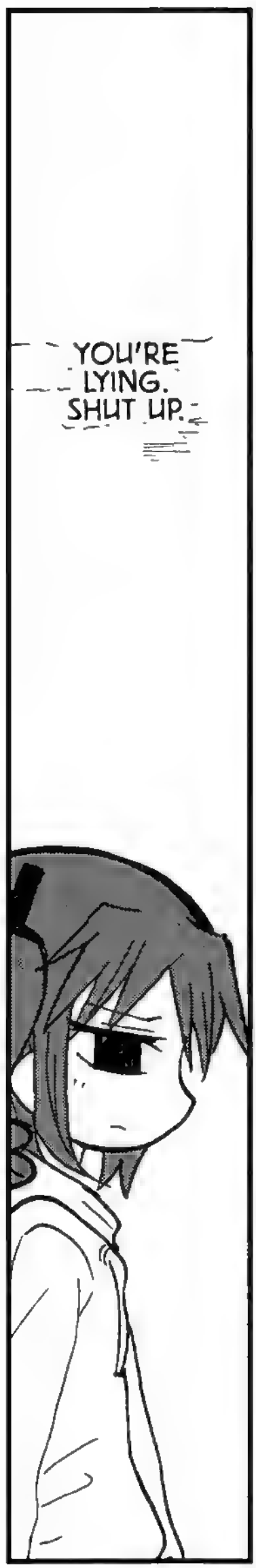


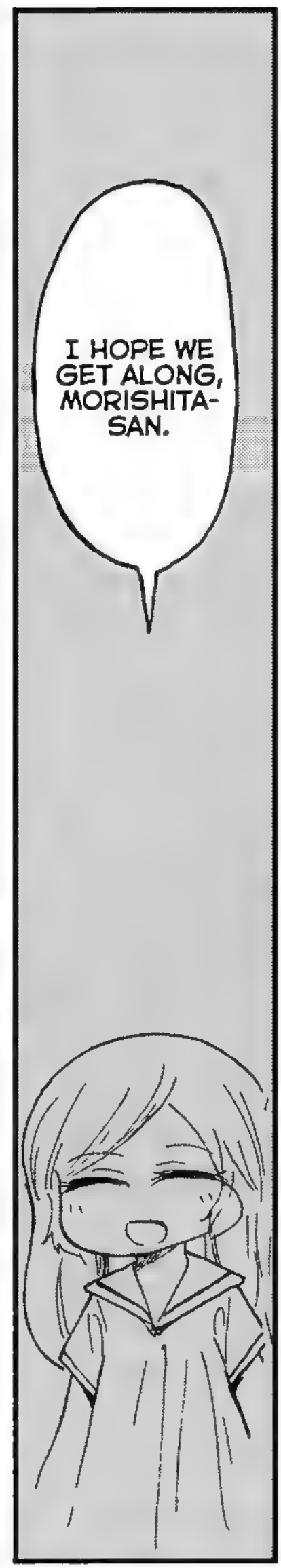
MORISHITA-SAN'S SO SCARY...

WHY DOES IT ALWAYS TURN OUT LIKE THIS?

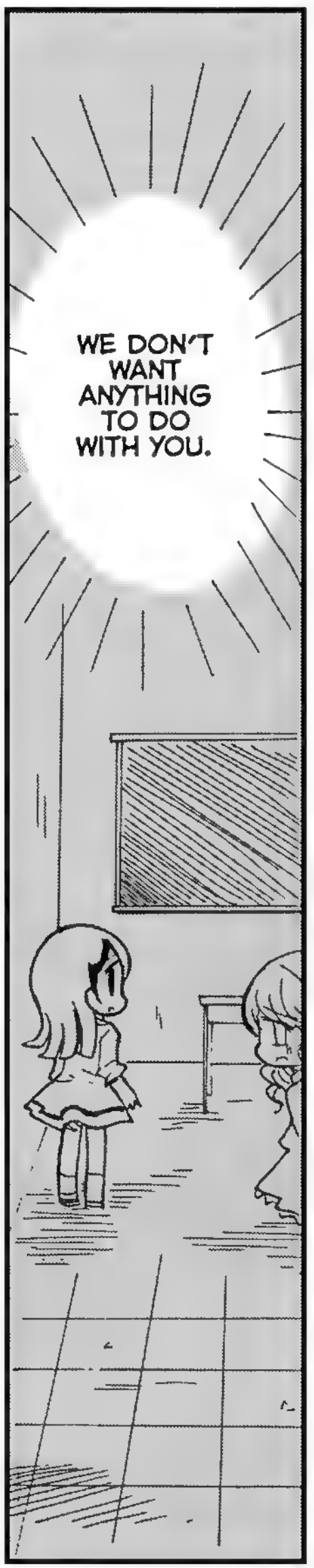

MORISHITA-SAN'S ANGRY...

THEY ALWAYS TREAT ME LIKE I'M A TROUBLE-MAKER.


YOU'RE LYING. SHUT UP.


I HOPE WE GET ALONG, MORISHITA-SAN.

LIKE I WANT ANYTHING TO DO WITH YOU EITHER.


WE DON'T WANT ANYTHING TO DO WITH YOU.

HOW COULD YOU SAY THAT WHEN YOU ACTUALLY HATE ME...?

LET'S GET ALONG, MORISHITA-CHAN!

MORISHITA-CHAN.

MORI-SHITA-CHAN, HELP.....

WAS IT YOU!?
WHO WAS IT!? WHO DID IT!?
DID YOU DO IT, THEN!?
N-NO...
I-IT WASN'T ME...!
SO IT WAS YOU, HUH!?
I DIDN'T ...

THEN IT WAS SOMEONE FROM THE OTHER CLASS!

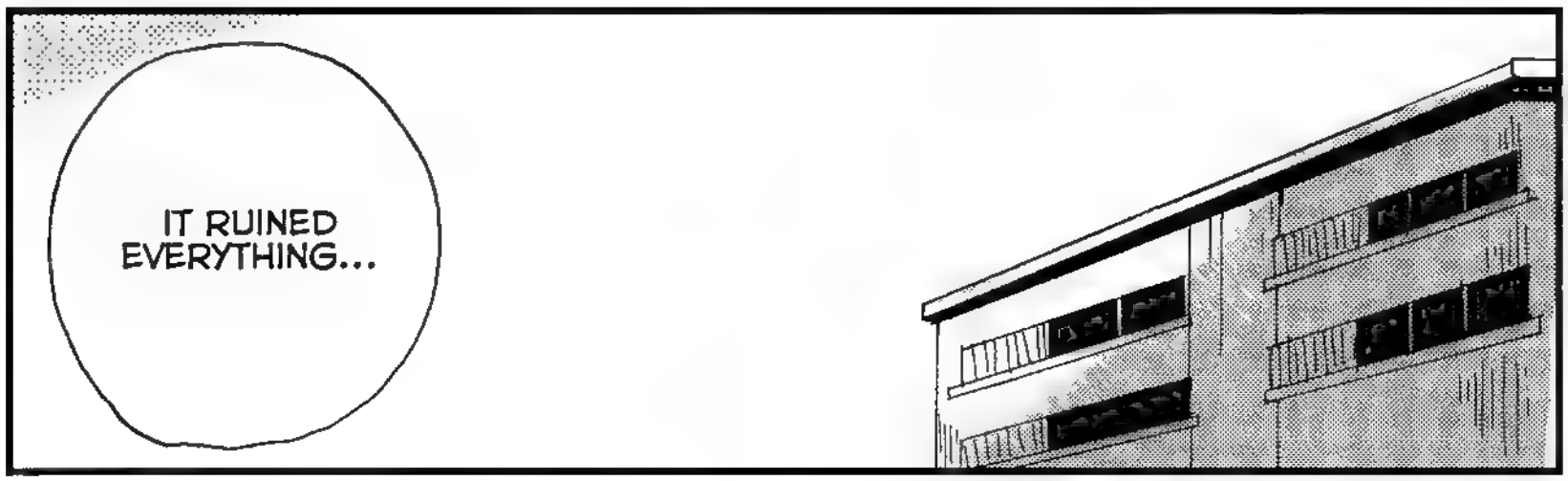
YOU ALL SAY YOU DIDN'T DO IT...

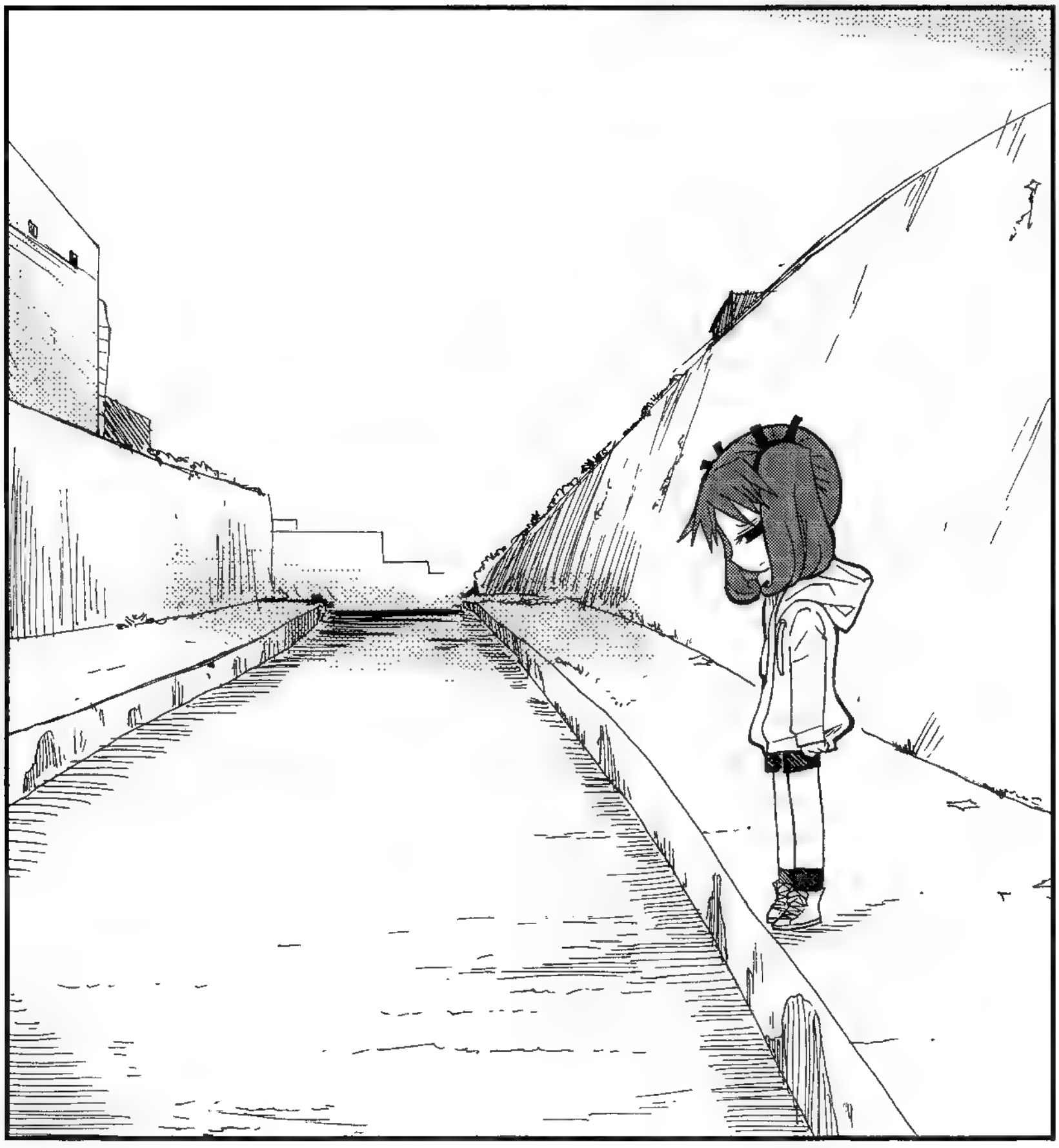
UWO-OOO-OOO!!

CONFESS, DAMN YOU!

COME OUT, YOU COWARD!

WHO WAS IT!? WHO DID IT!? DON'T HIDE!

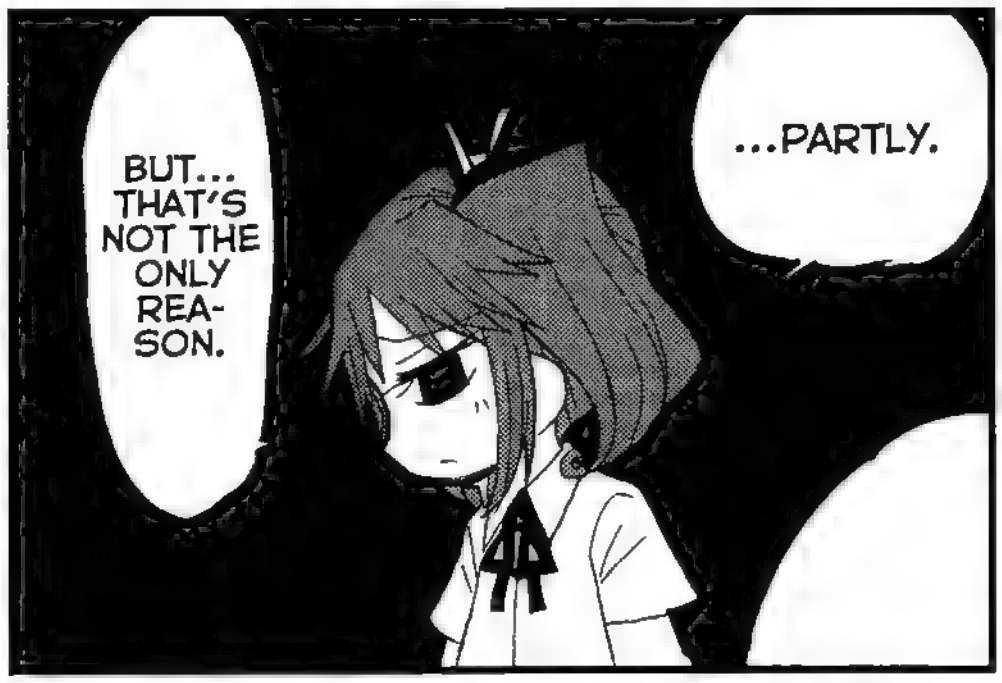

IT RUINED EVERYTHING...



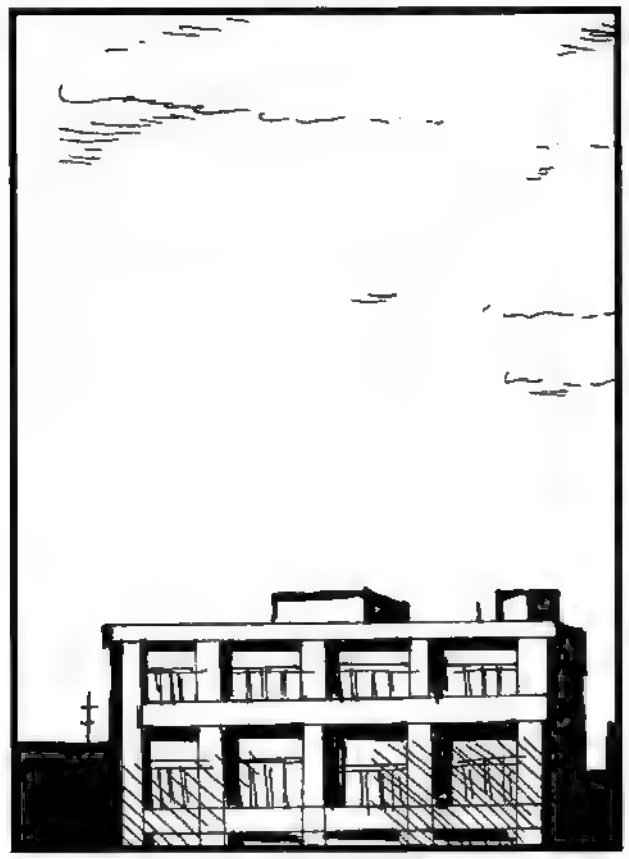
I AL-READY HAVE PLANS.
I CAN'T.
MORI-SHITA-CHAN, LET'S GO TO THE CLUB TO-GETHER.

I TOLD YOU, I CAN'T.
STOP DOING THAT. LET'S GO TO THE CLUB.

PLANS? WHAT PLANS?
LOOK-ING FOR THE DUCK.


BUT... THAT'S NOT THE ONLY REA-SON.
...PARTLY.

BUT YOU ACTUALLY JUST DON'T WANNA GO, RIGHT?
YOU SAY THAT,



I'LL SAY IT STRAI-GHT... I WANT TO BE ALONE RIGHT NOW.

I BROUGHT MORISHITA-CHAN!

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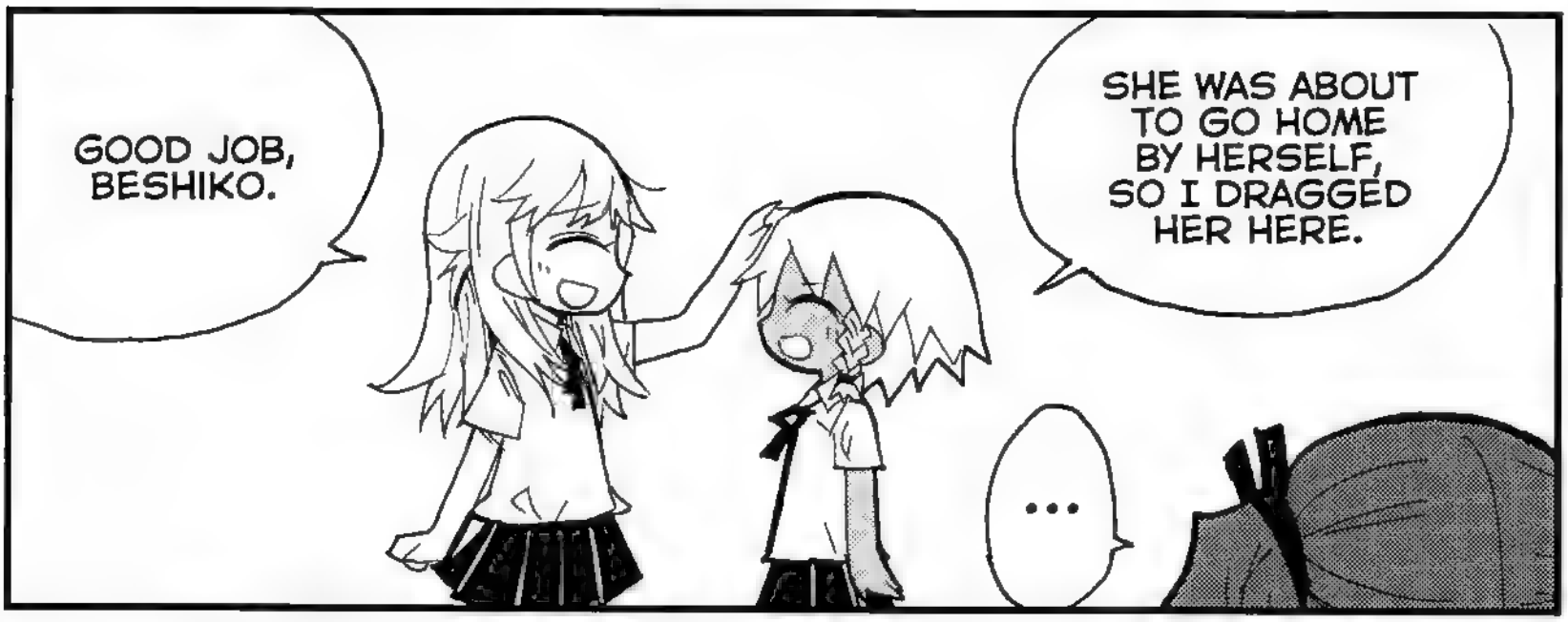
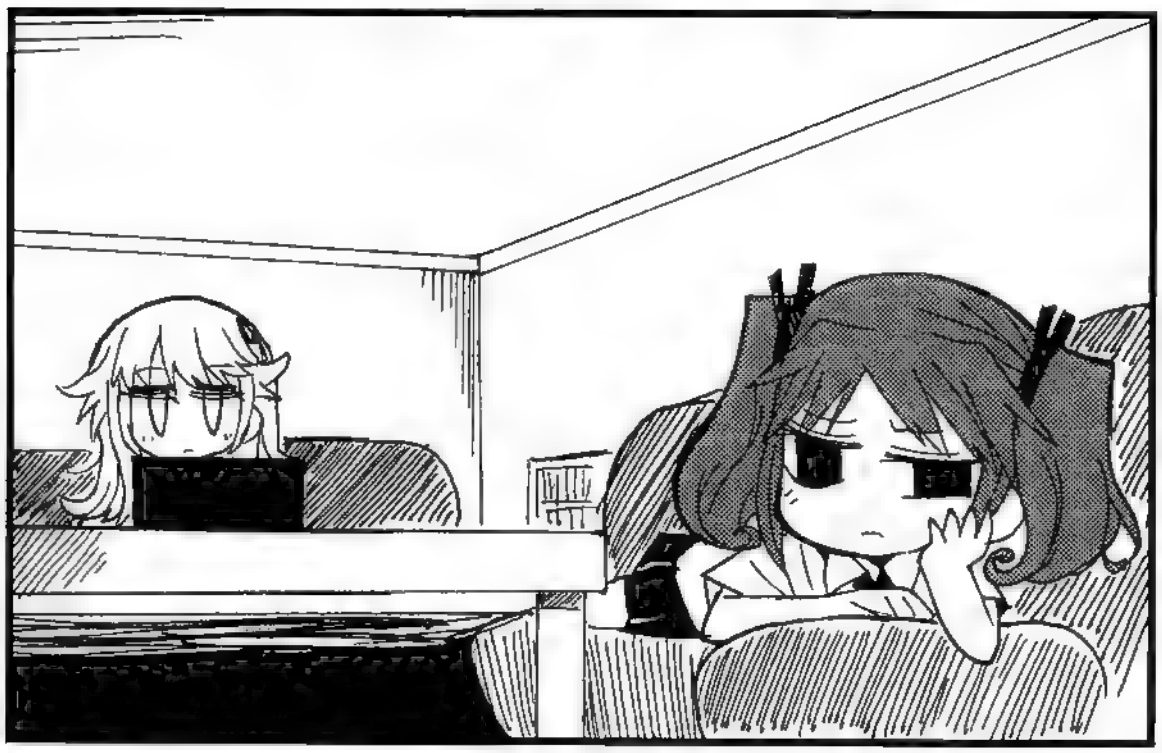
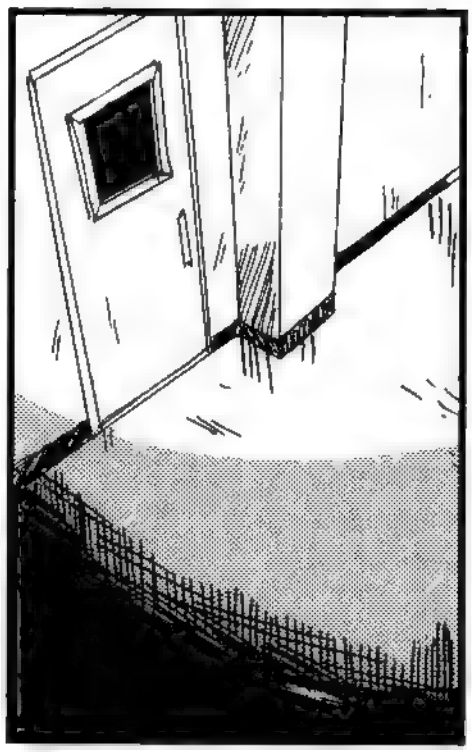
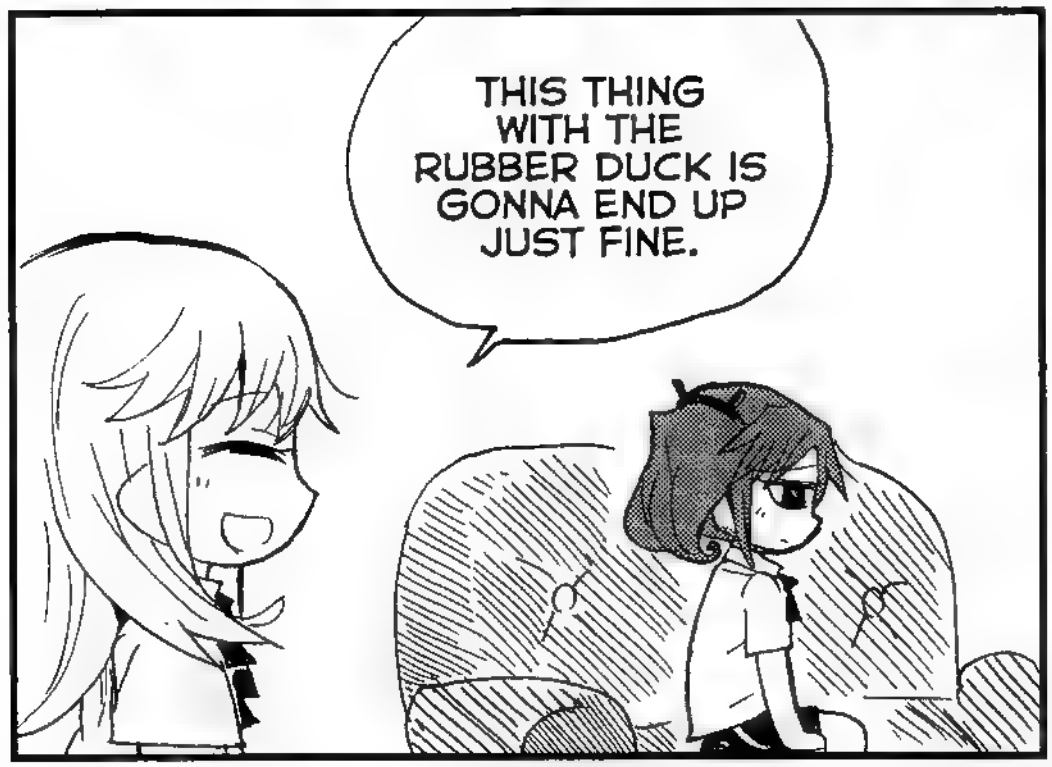

GOOD JOB, BESHIKO.
SHE WAS ABOUT TO GO HOME BY HERSELF, SO I DRAGGED HER HERE.
...





NO ONE'S BLAMING YOU, RIGHT?

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE SO UPSET.


THIS THING WITH THE RUBBER DUCK IS GONNA END UP JUST FINE.

BESI-DES...

EVERYTHING'S GOING TO GO BACK TO NORMAL. I'M SURE OF IT.

YOU CAN SAY THAT BECAUSE IT DOESN'T CONCERN YOU, PRESI-DENT.

BUT I DON'T THINK I'LL BE ABLE TO RECOVER FROM THIS ONE...

I'VE LOST FAITH IN MYSELF A NUMBER OF TIMES BEFORE,

I'VE COMPLETELY LOST SIGHT OF MYSELF...

YOU'VE GAINED PLENTY OF EXPERIENCE... LEARNED NEW SKILLS...

YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED AT ALL, MORISHITA-CHAN.

RIGHT... YOU'VE JUST LEVELED UP BY THINKING MORE.

HOW ARE YOU THIS TOUGH AND CLEVER?

HOW IS IT POSSIBLE TO FACE ANY AND ALL PROBLEMS WITHOUT WORRY

WHILE STAYING TRUE TO YOURSELF?

I DON'T THINK I'LL BE ABLE TO BECOME LIKE YOU BY NEXT YEAR.

YOU'RE JUST A YEAR OLDER THAN ME, BUT YOU'RE FAR MORE MATURE.

YOU KNOW, THE NIGHT SUWA-KUN GOT SWEPT AWAY BY THE RIVER,

I'M NOT A PERSON ANYONE SHOULD LOOK UP TO.

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT ...?

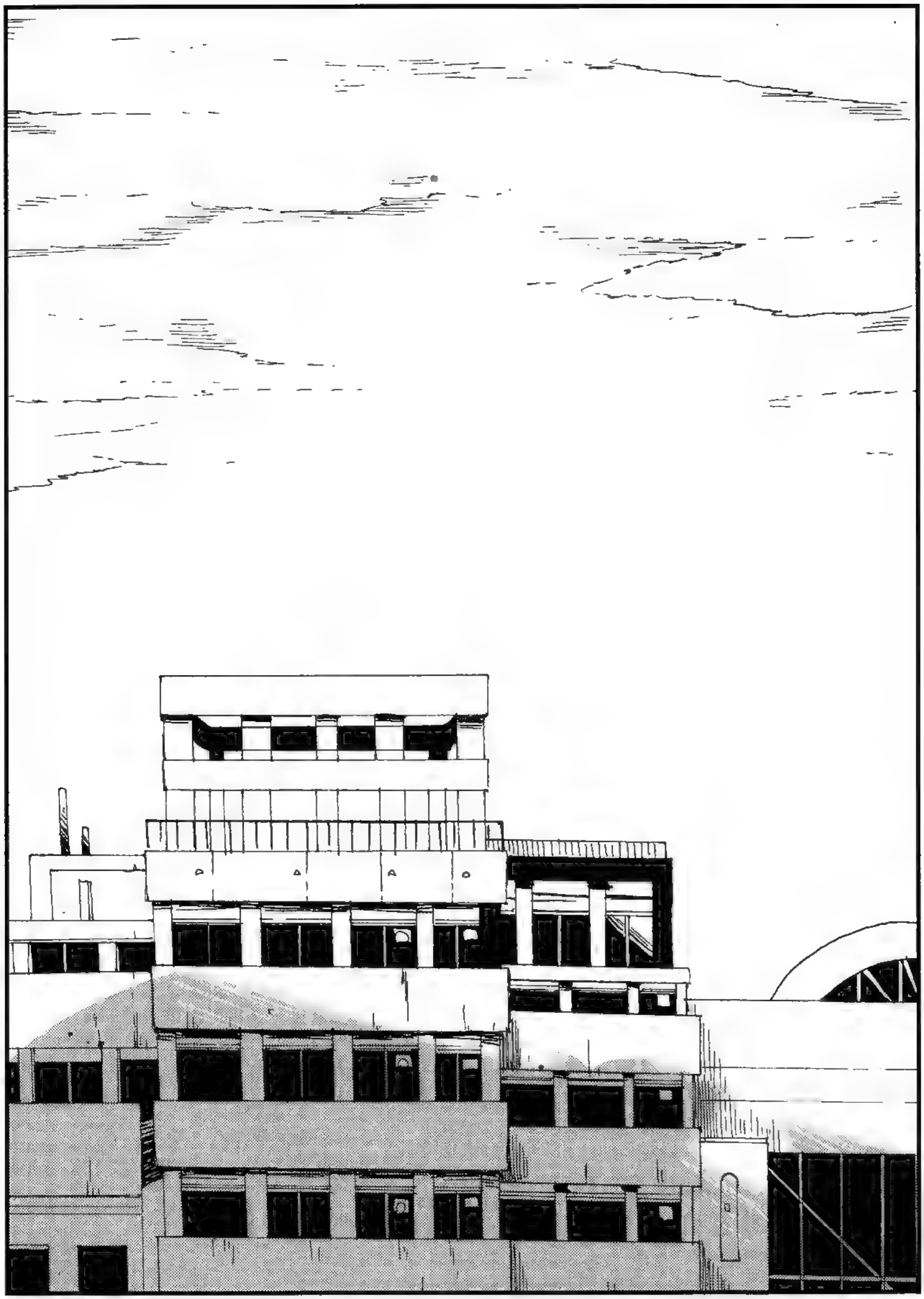
LIKE, SERIOUSLY... I CRIED MY EYES OUT IN FRONT OF MY COMPUTER SCREEN.

I WAS SO ANXIOUS, I COULDN'T GET A WINK OF SLEEP.

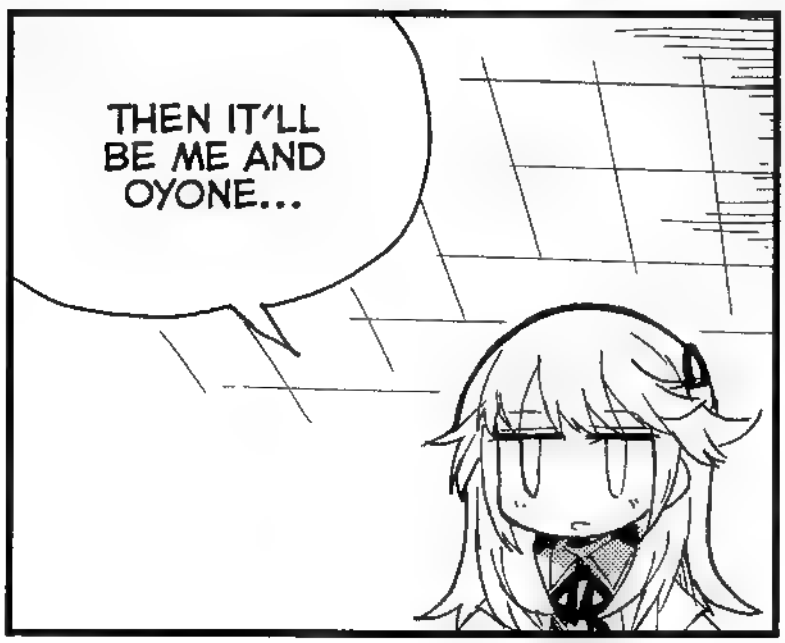
I FELT LIKE ALL MY EFFORTS JUST WENT DOWN THE DRAIN.

SURE DID. I'M JUST PLAYING THE RELIABLE OLDER SISTER TO YOU RIGHT NOW...

YOU DID?



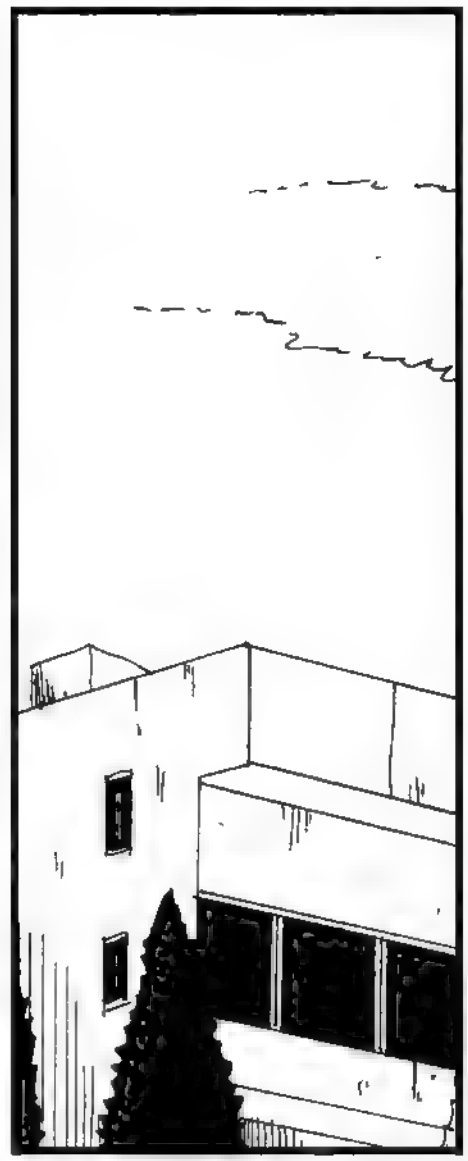
LET'S VISIT SUWA-KUN TOMORROW.

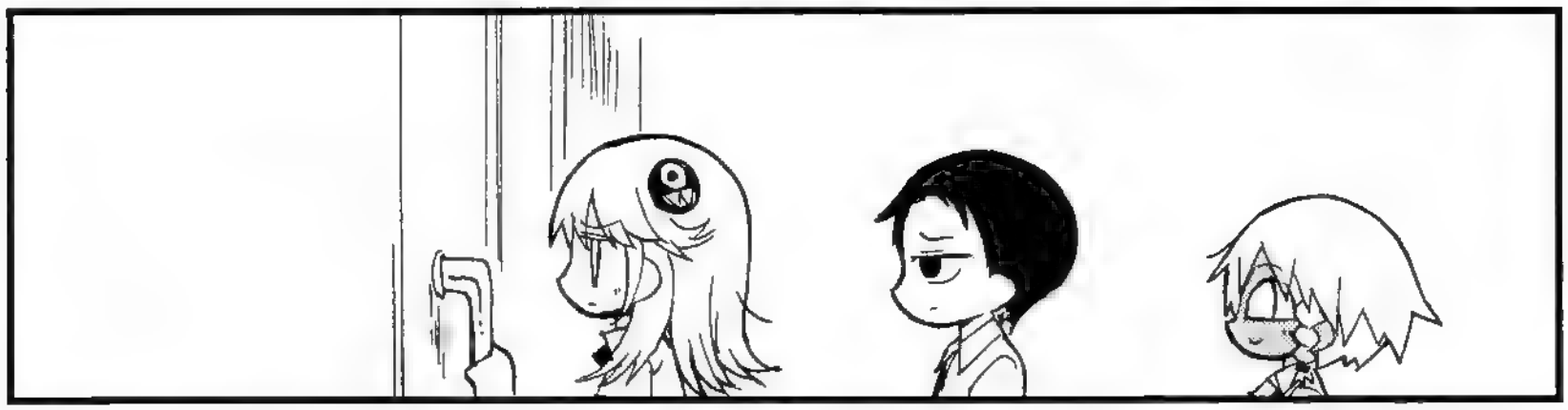


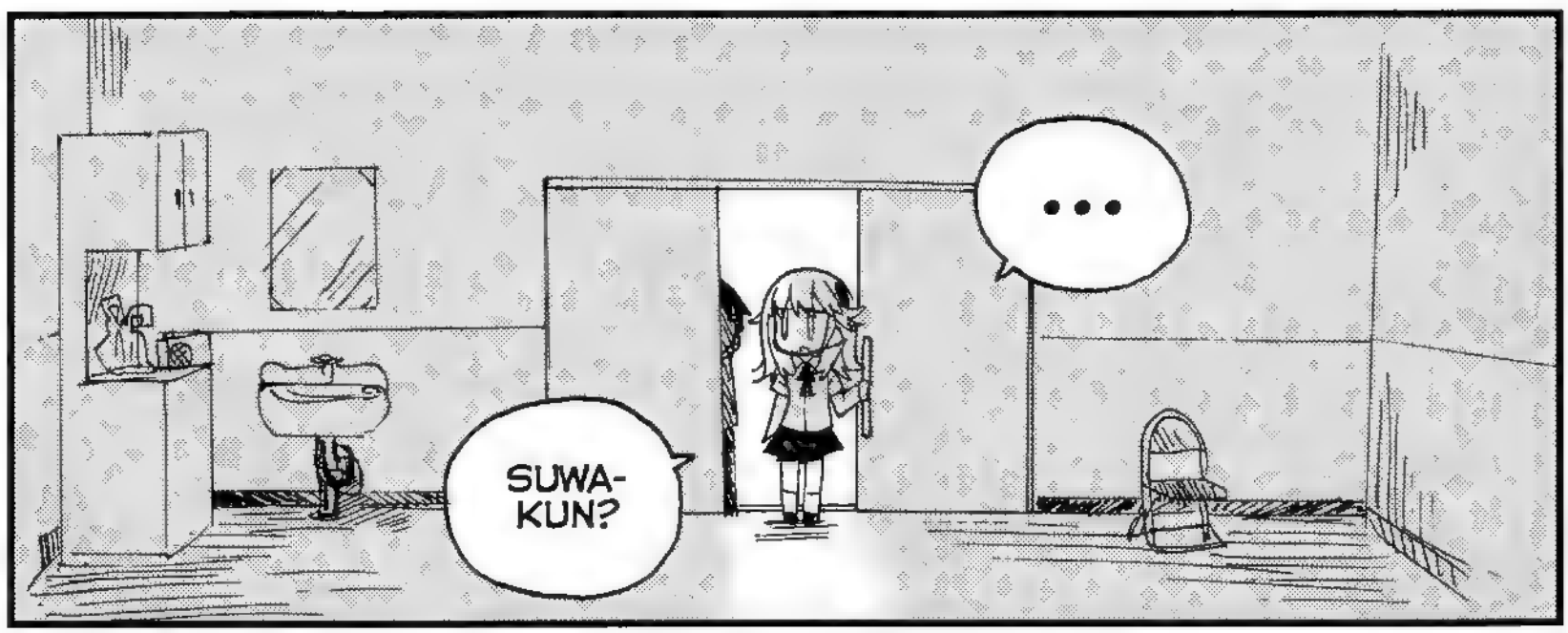
WHY ARE YOU BRINGING BESHIKO TOO?

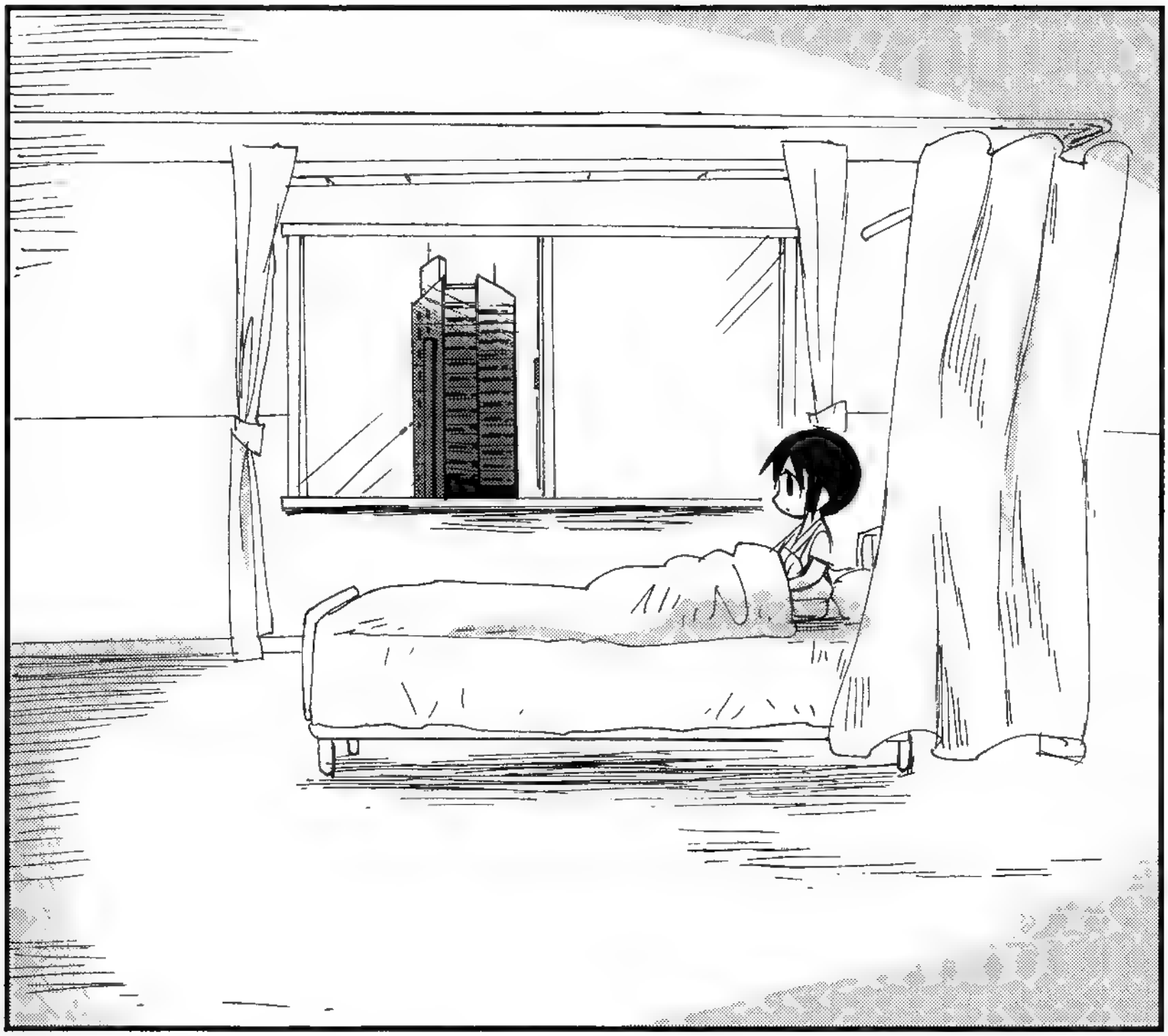
LISTEN, THIS IS THE ONLY WAY FOR US TO SAVE MORISHITA-CHAN.

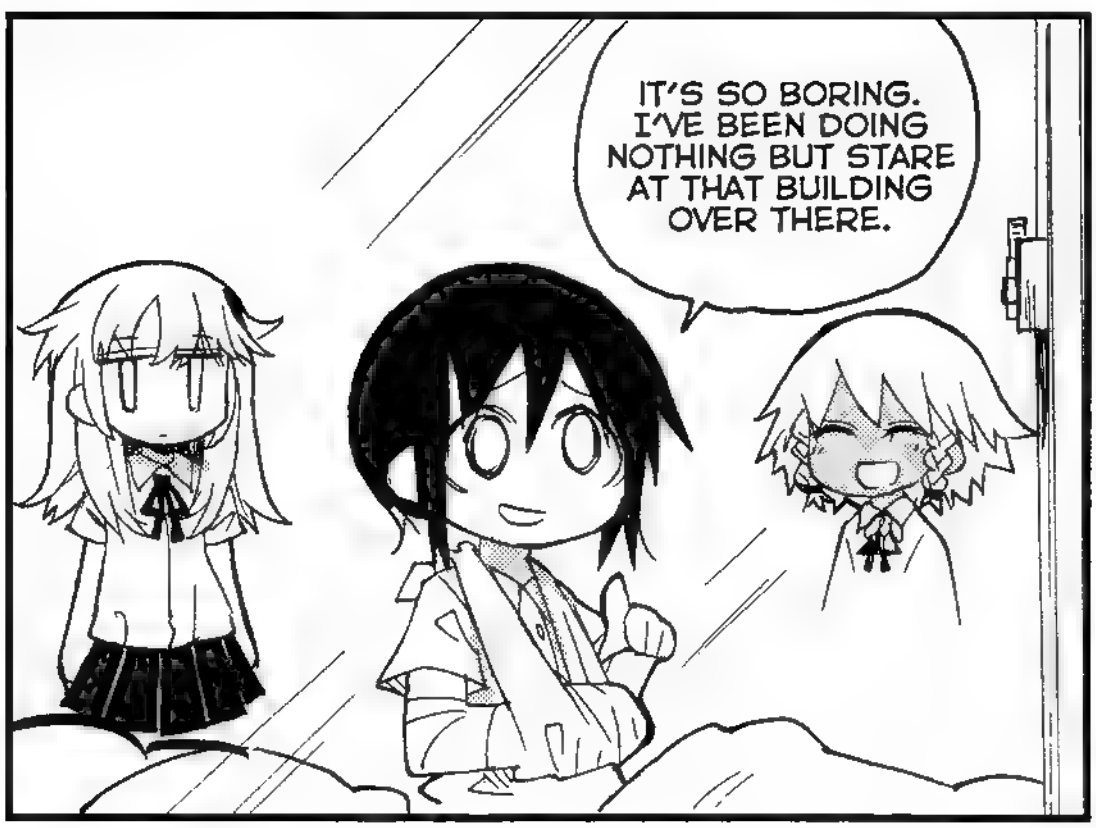
SHE FOLLOWED US ON HER OWN...









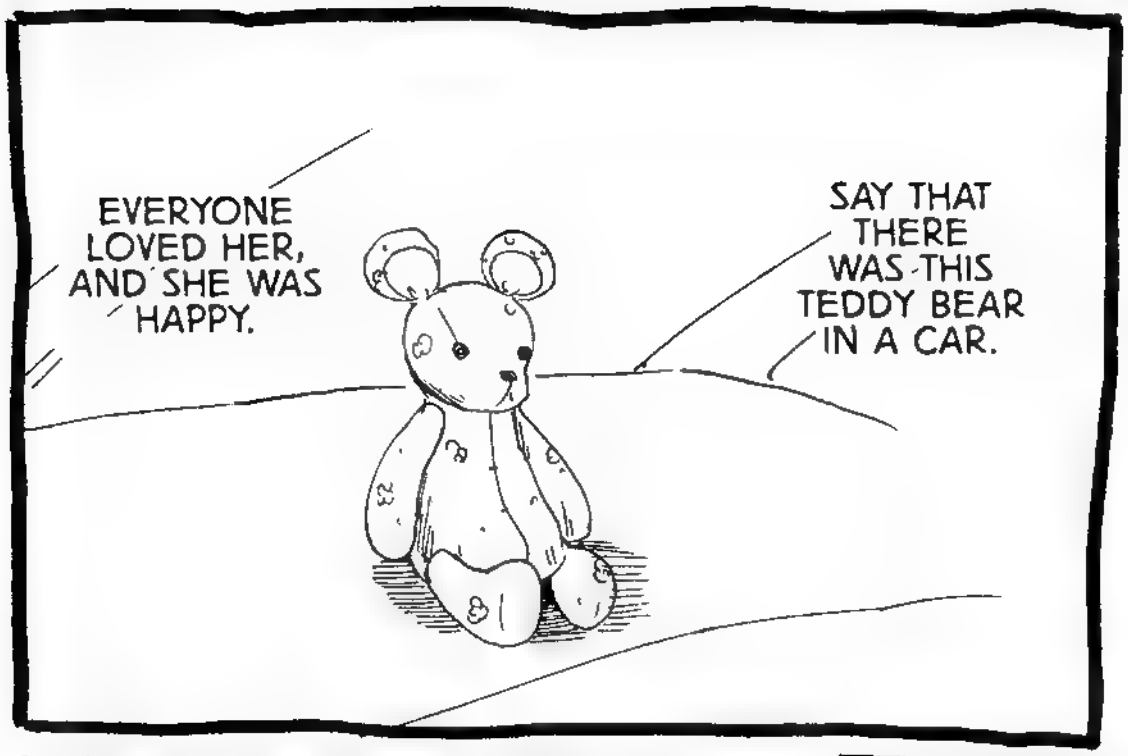

IT'S SO BORING. I'VE BEEN DOING NOTHING BUT STARE AT THAT BUILDING OVER THERE.

WAH, YOU'RE HERE!

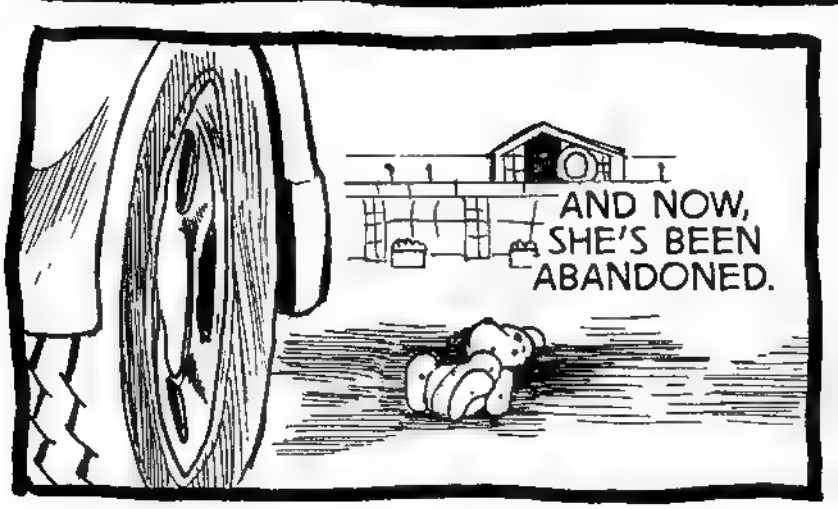
*TN: Suwa pronounces his words like small children do here. This showed up at times in previous chapters.

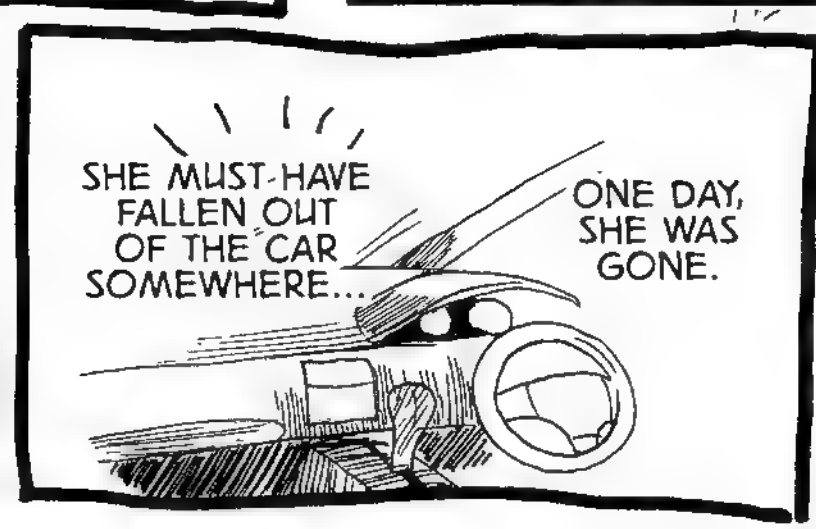
WHY DOESN'T ANYONE UNDERSTAND THIS FEELING...?
I FEEL SO BAD FOR EVERYTHING! IT'S UN-BEARABLE!

WHAT CONDITION ...?
WHAT CONDI-TION IS IT?

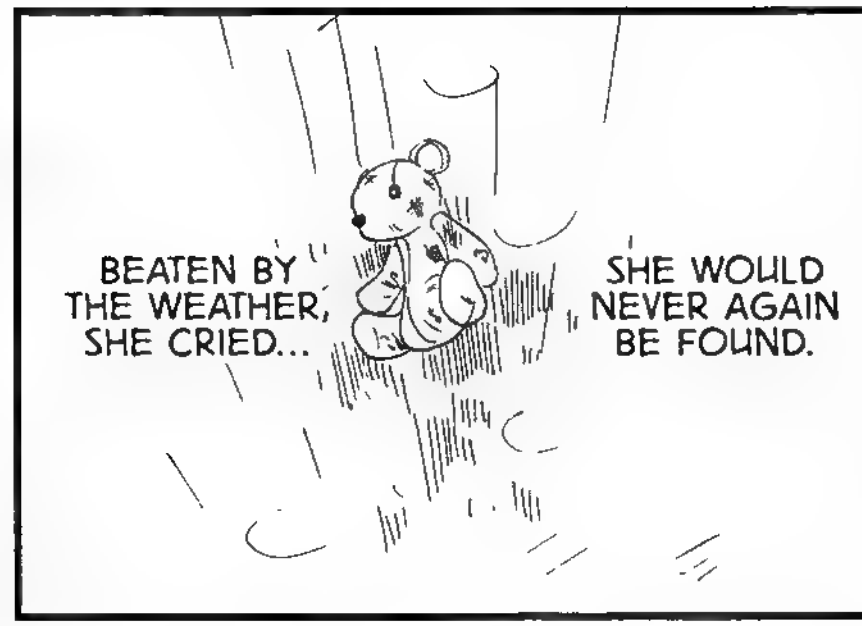

EVERYONE LOVED HER, AND SHE WAS HAPPY.
SAY THAT THERE WAS THIS TEDDY BEAR IN A CAR.

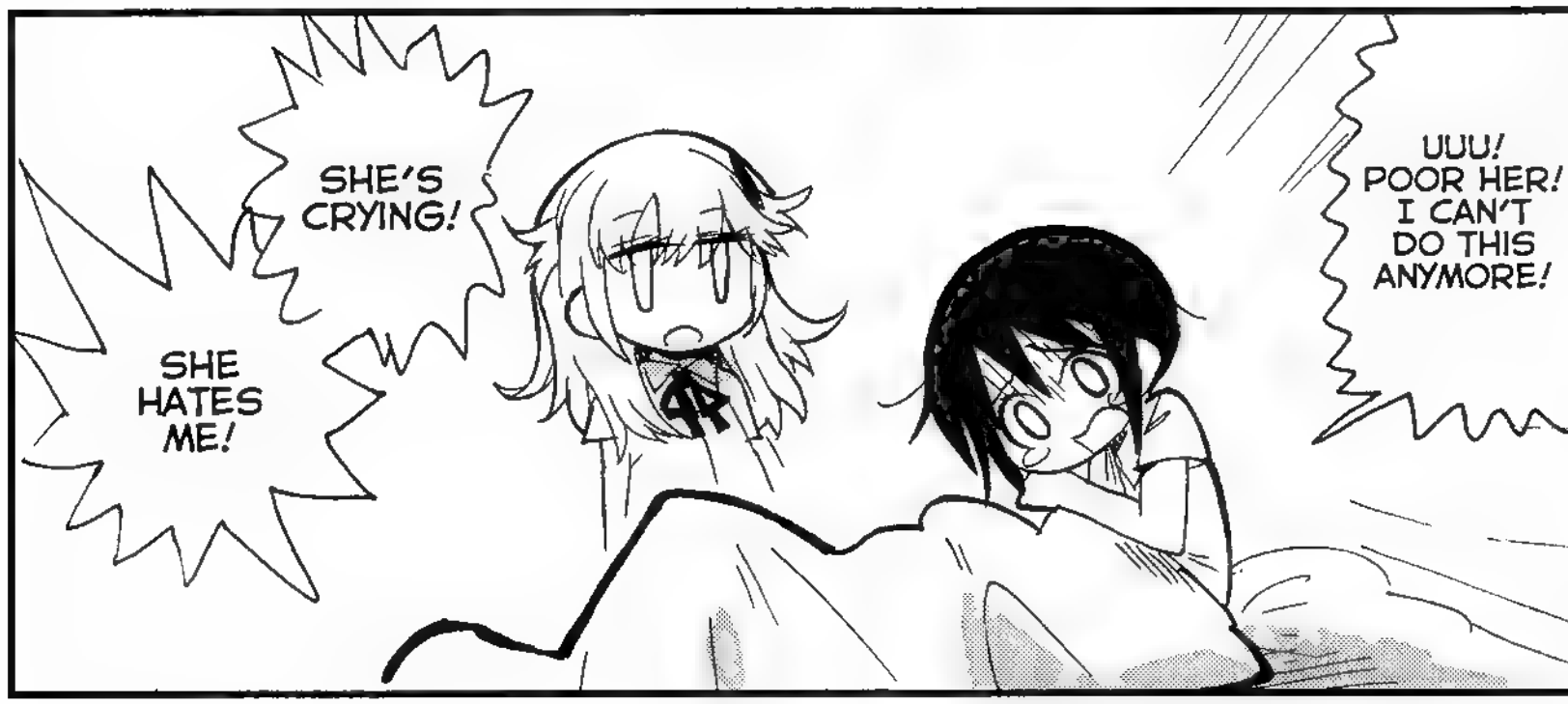
HERE'S AN EX-AMPLE.

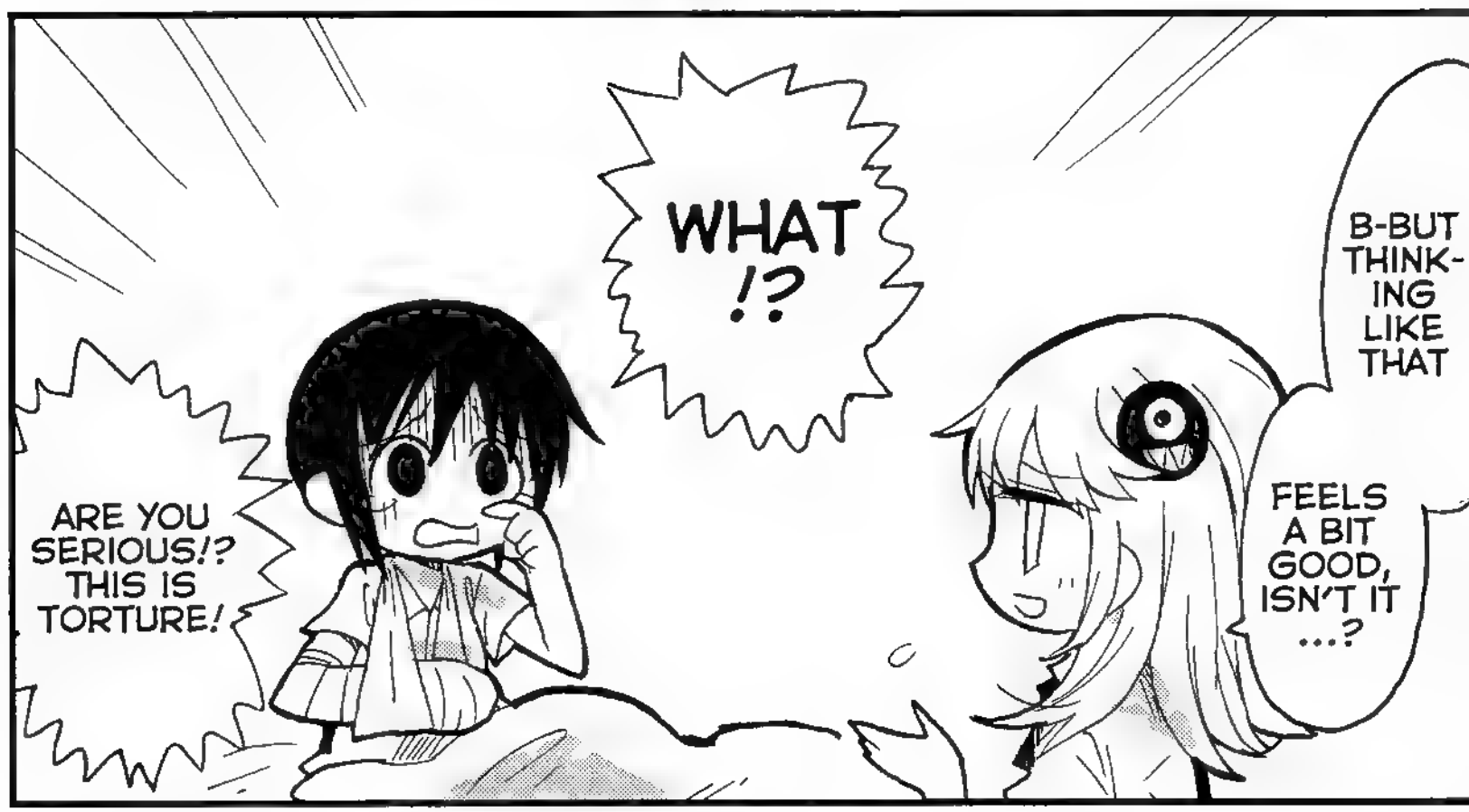

AND NOW, SHE'S BEEN ABANDONED.


SHE MUST HAVE FALLEN OUT OF THE CAR SOMEWHERE...
ONE DAY, SHE WAS GONE.

I'M COLD ...!
I WANT TO GO HOME ...!


BEATEN BY THE WEATHER, SHE CRIED...
SHE WOULD NEVER AGAIN BE FOUND.


SHE'S CRYING!
SHE HATES ME!
UUU! POOR HER! I CAN'T DO THIS ANYMORE!


WHAT !?
ARE YOU SERIOUS!? THIS IS TORTURE!
B-BUT THINK-ING LIKE THAT
FEELS A BIT GOOD, ISN'T IT ...?

JUNKO...
JUNKO...

I WANT IT TO STOP...! IT HURTS SO MUCH...

I CAN'T STOP... THESE TRAGIC THOUGHTS JUST WON'T STOP COMING...

YOU'RE GOING TO DIE FROM STRESS IF YOU THINK TOO DEEPLY ABOUT IT.

SHE HATES ME...

JUNKO IS IN PAIN...

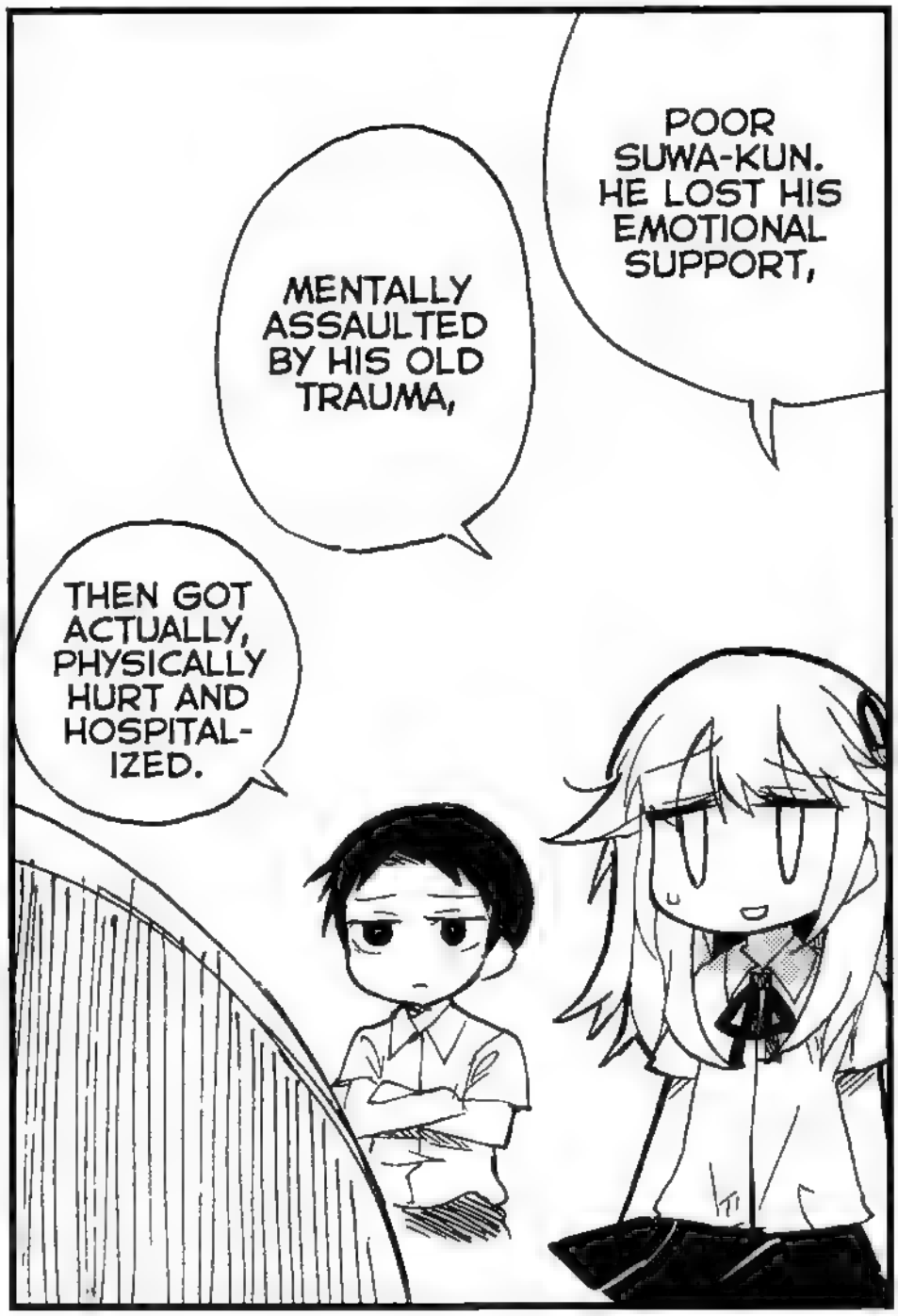
EHEHE-HE...

WAAAA-AAAAA-AAAAA-AAAAA-AAAAH!

JUNKO'S CRYING...
SOME-WHERE... SOME-WHERE...

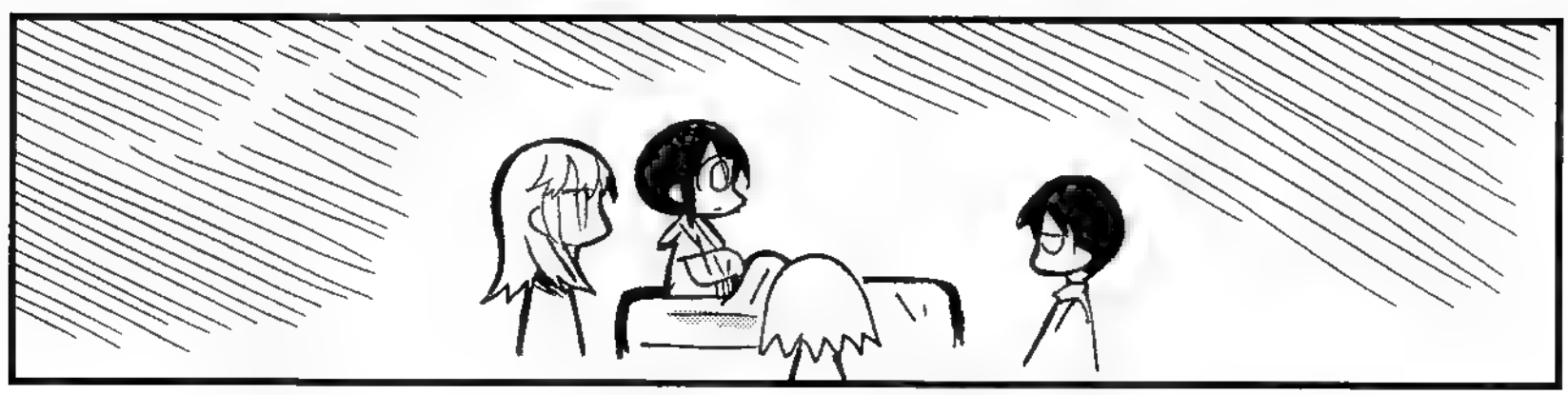
YOU GOT IT REAL ROUGH THIS TIME.

UWAA-AAAA-AAAA-AAAA-AAAH!


POOR SUWA-KUN. HE LOST HIS EMOTIONAL SUPPORT,
MENTALLY ASSAULTED BY HIS OLD TRAUMA,
THEN GOT ACTUALLY, PHYSICALLY HURT AND HOSPITAL-IZED.

BUT CAN YOU TELL MORISHITA-CHAN THAT YOU DON'T NEED YOUR RUBBER DUCK ANYMORE...?

BY THE WAY... I FEEL BAD FOR ASKING YOU TO DO THIS,



THAT'S OUR BEST OPTION.

AND SAY THAT WE'VE FOUND IT.

BUT WELL, WE CAN ALSO SHOW HER A FAKE ONE

THAT'S DEMONIC!

WOULDN'T *I* BE MISERABLE IF I DO!?

MORISHITA-CHAN WOULD BE SO MISERABLE IF YOU DON'T GIVE HER GROUND.

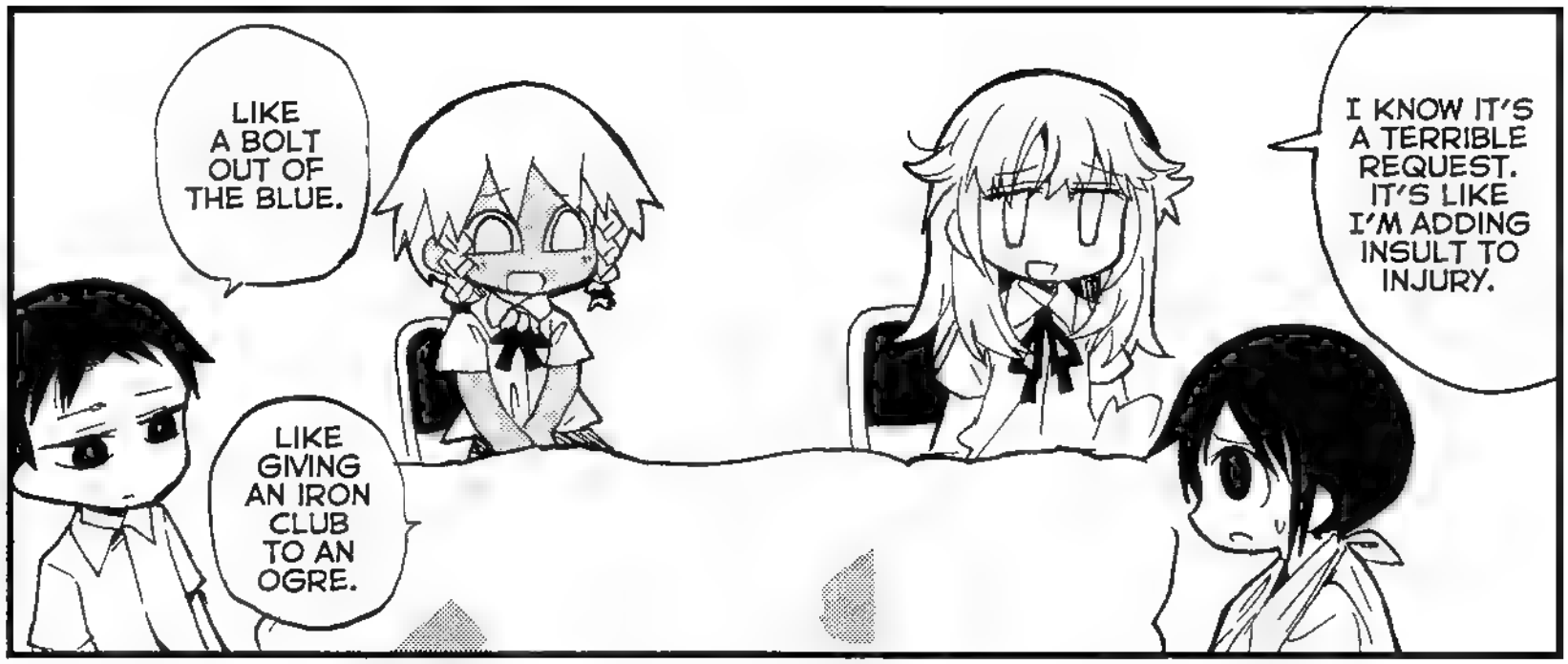
SHE MADE THIS... SHE REALLY REGRETS WHAT SHE DID.

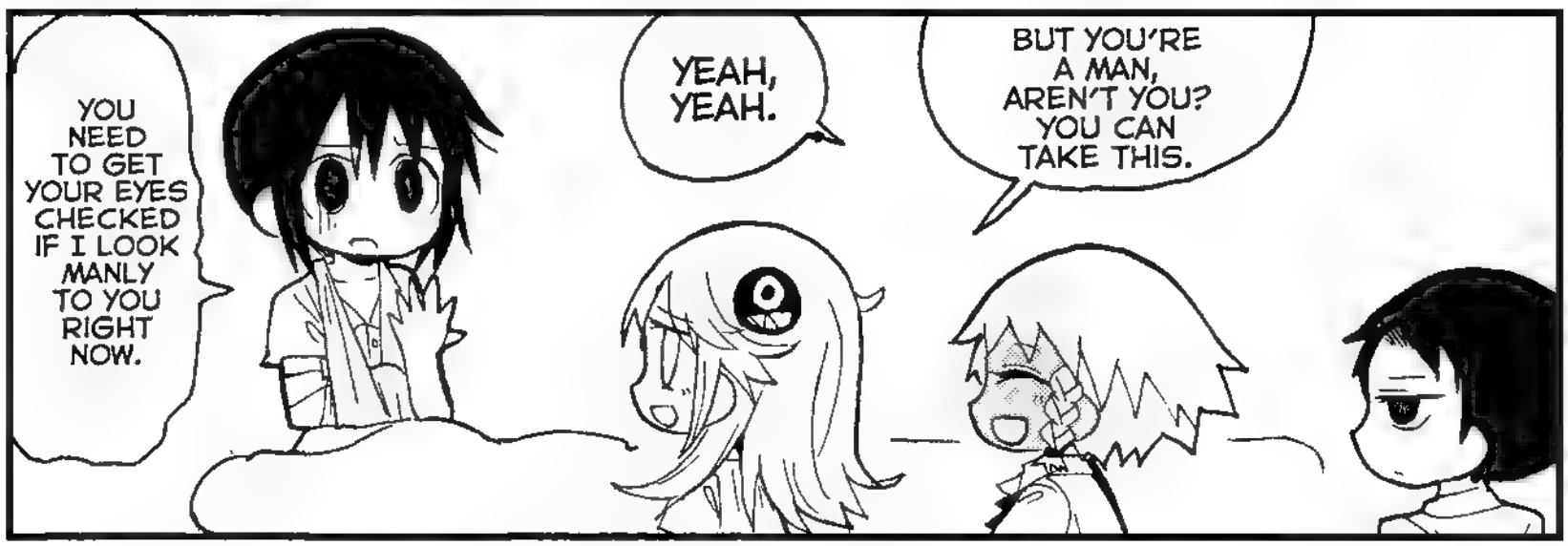
THIS IS MY FAULT!

POOR HER...

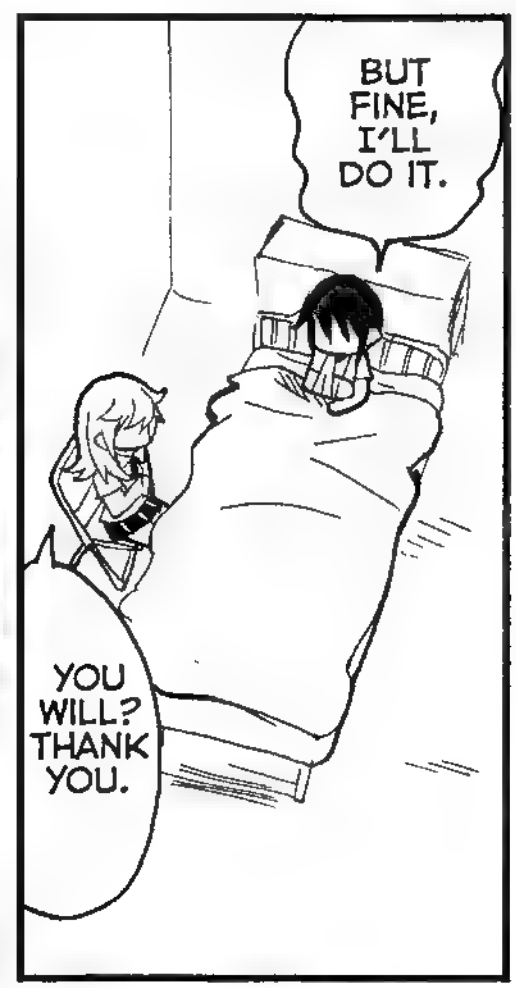
IF POSSIBLE, I'D LIKE YOU TO FORGIVE HER.

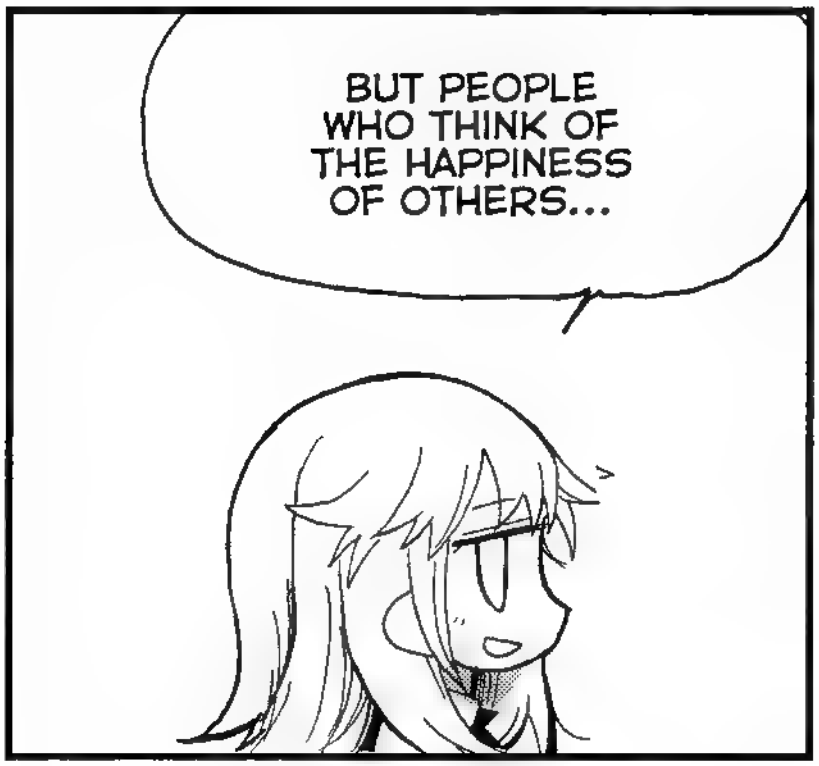
WE TOO HAVE OUR OWN MEETINGS AND FAREWELLS...
PEOPLE DESERVE SYMPATHY TOO.
RI-RIGHT... IT'S NOT JUST RUBBER DUCKS AND TEDDY BEARS,

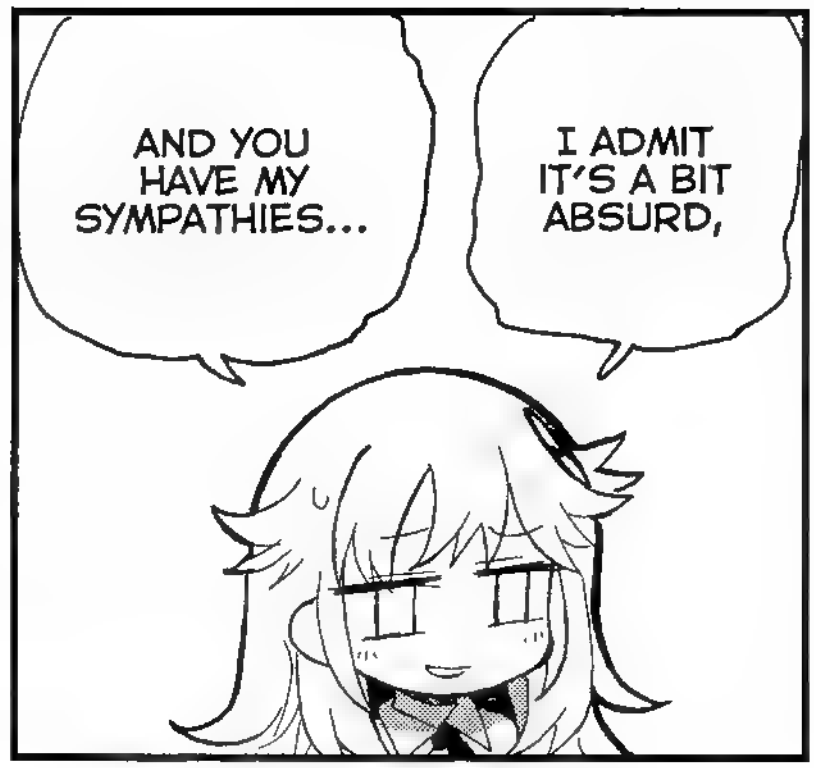

LIKE A BOLT OUT OF THE BLUE.
LIKE GIVING AN IRON CLUB TO AN OGRE.
I KNOW IT'S A TERRIBLE REQUEST. IT'S LIKE I'M ADDING INSULT TO INJURY.


YOU NEED TO GET YOUR EYES CHECKED IF I LOOK MANLY TO YOU RIGHT NOW.
YEAH, YEAH.
BUT YOU'RE A MAN, AREN'T YOU? YOU CAN TAKE THIS.

IT'S KIND OF ABSURD, THOUGH... LIKE, WHAT THE HELL?
I GOT MY RUBBER DUCK THROWN OFF A BRIDGE, AND I'M THE ONE WHO'S GOTTA PATCH THINGS UP?


BUT FINE, I'LL DO IT.
YOU WILL? THANK YOU.


BUT PEOPLE WHO THINK OF THE HAPPINESS OF OTHERS...


AND YOU HAVE MY SYMPATHIES...
I ADMIT IT'S A BIT ABSURD,

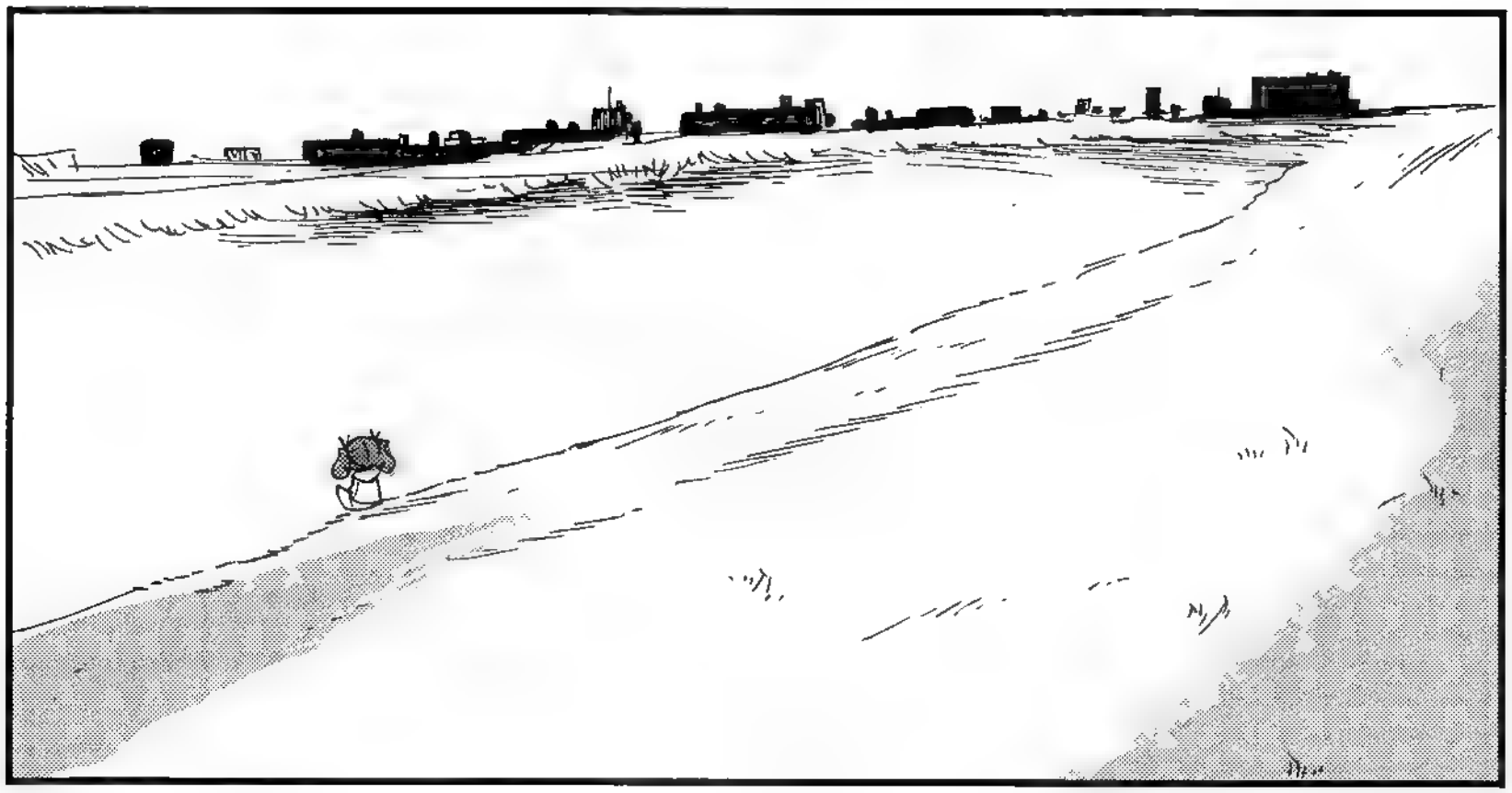
THEY SUFFER THE MOST OUT OF EVERYONE...
THAT'S PRETTY COMMON, ISN'T IT?
WORK THEIR HARDEST AND DO THEIR UTMOST KILLING THEMSELVES...

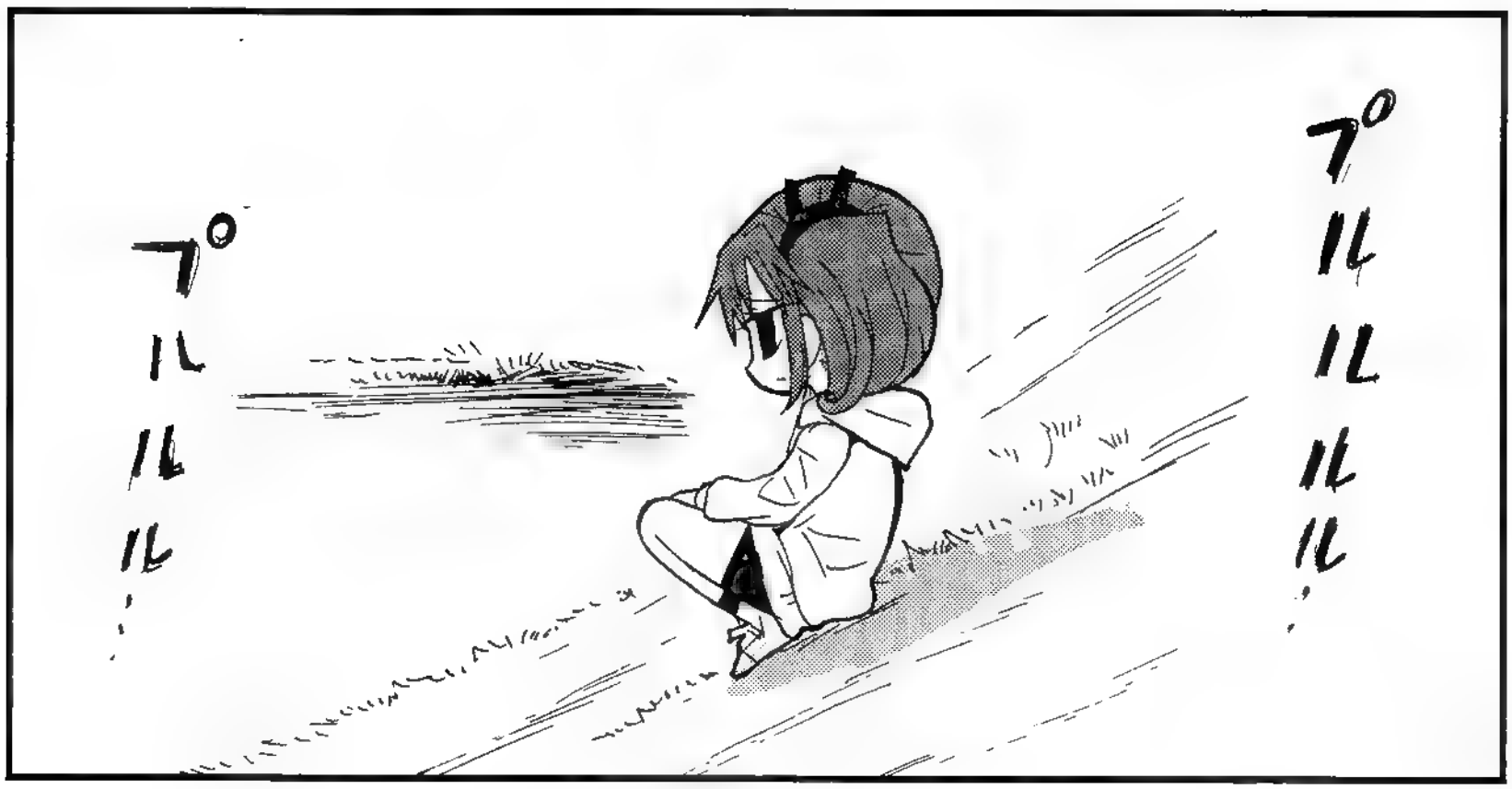
I'LL DO IT.
IT'S NOT LIKE I'M DOING THIS TO SPITE HER...
I'LL BE ONE OF THOSE DEVOUTS TOO.
YOU'RE RIGHT. I'LL...

YOU DO YOUR HARDEST WITHOUT EVER COM-PLAINING...
YOU DO YOUR BEST TO KEEP YOUR SECRET...
WHA?

NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, THAT'S PROBABLY WHAT YOU'VE BEEN DOING.

W-WHERE DID THAT COME FROM...?
YOU'RE AMAZING, PREZ... COMPARED TO YOU, I...

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BESHIKO-CHAN...
HELLO, MORISHITA-CHAN.
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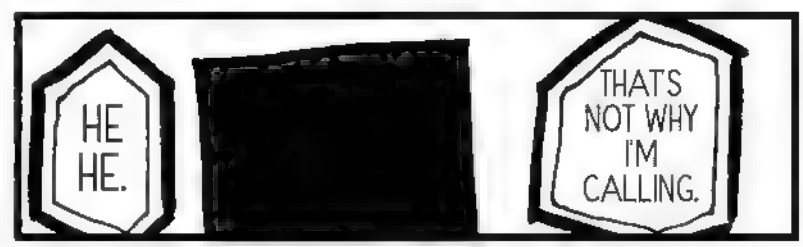
EHE-HEHE.
...GEEZ.
WHERE ARE YOU?

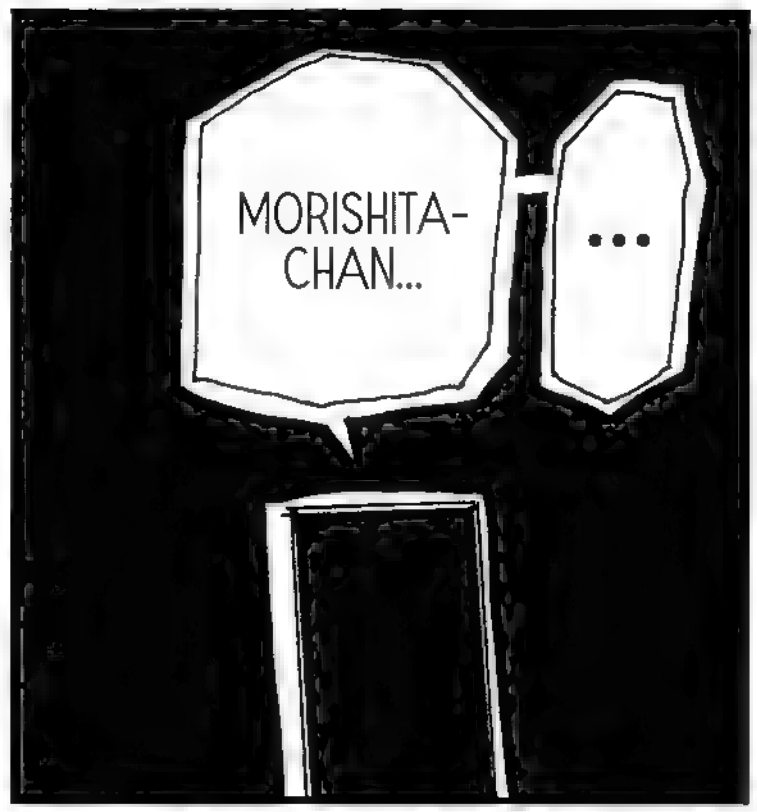
NOT UNTIL I'VE FOUND THE DUCK...
IF YOU'RE CALLING TO TELL ME TO GO VISIT HIM, I WON'T.

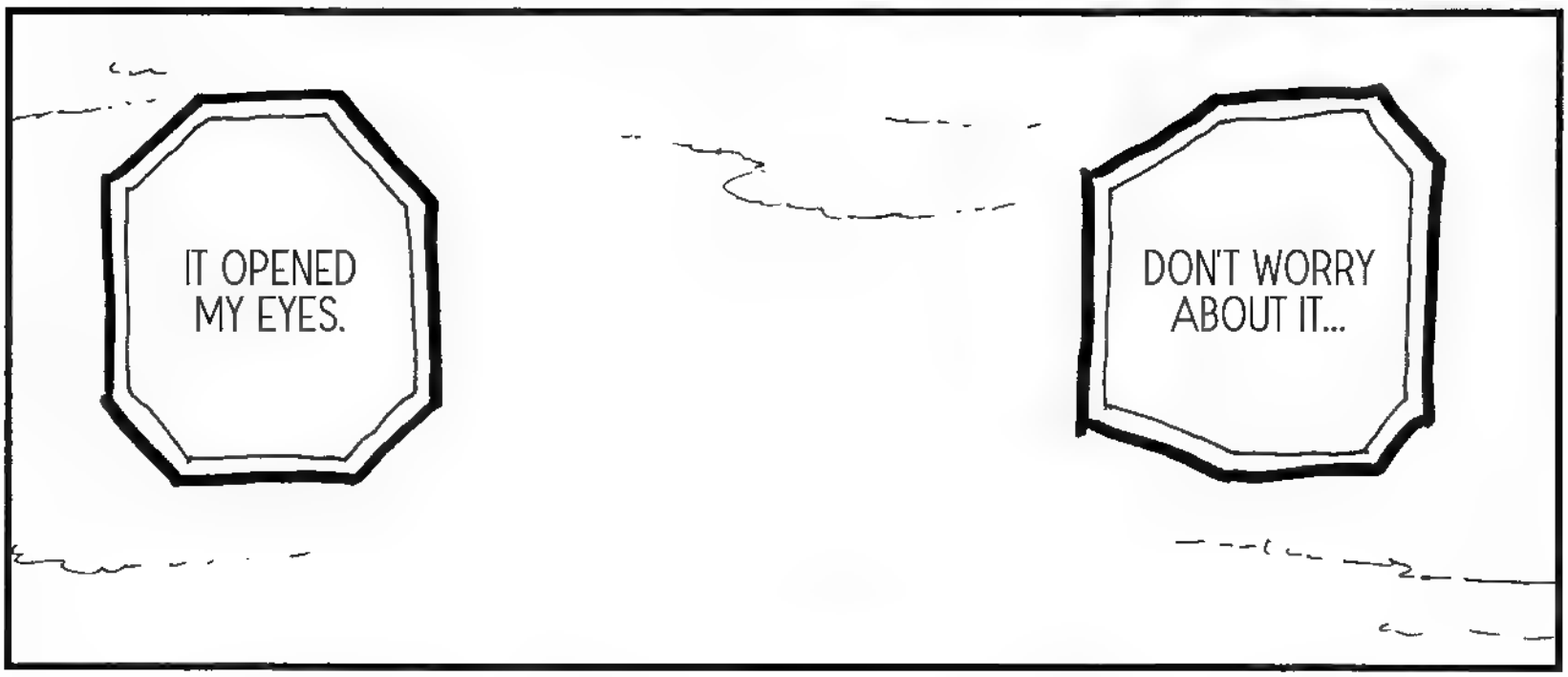

HE HE.
THAT'S NOT WHY I'M CALLING.

WAIT, TO WHO ...!?
HUH !?

I'M PASSING THE PHONE.

I'M SORRY.
I'M STILL LOOKING FOR IT.


MORISHITA-CHAN...
...


IT OPENED MY EYES.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT...

I'M SORRY...
SO...
I WAS BEING STUPID TOO.

YOU CAN STOP LOOKING FOR IT...

THANK YOU FOR DOING IT THIS WHOLE TIME...

PEOPLE TOO HAVE THEIR OWN MEETINGS AND FAREWELLS...

MY RUBBER DUCK ISN'T THE ONLY THING THAT DESERVES SYMPATHY.

...

IS THAT SO...

SO...

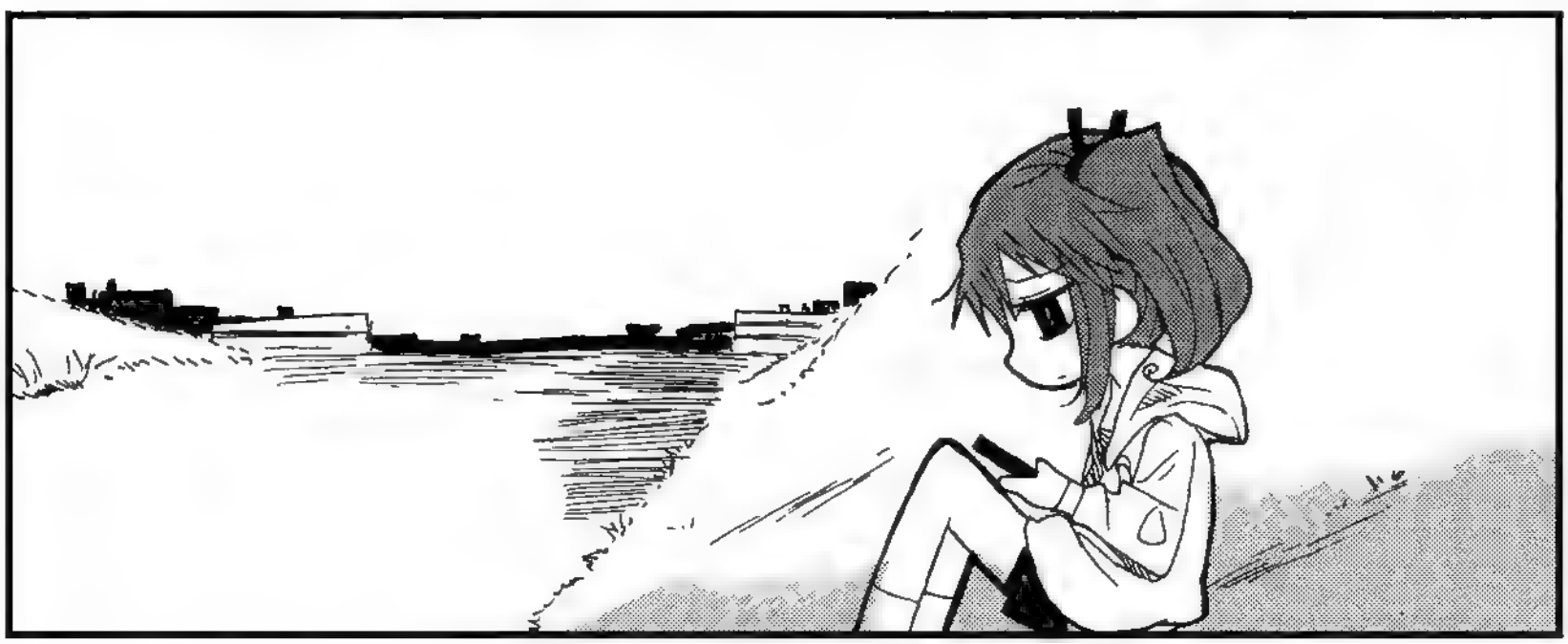
I'M NOT GOING TO LET YOU KEEP PRETENDING LIKE EVERY-THING'S FINE!

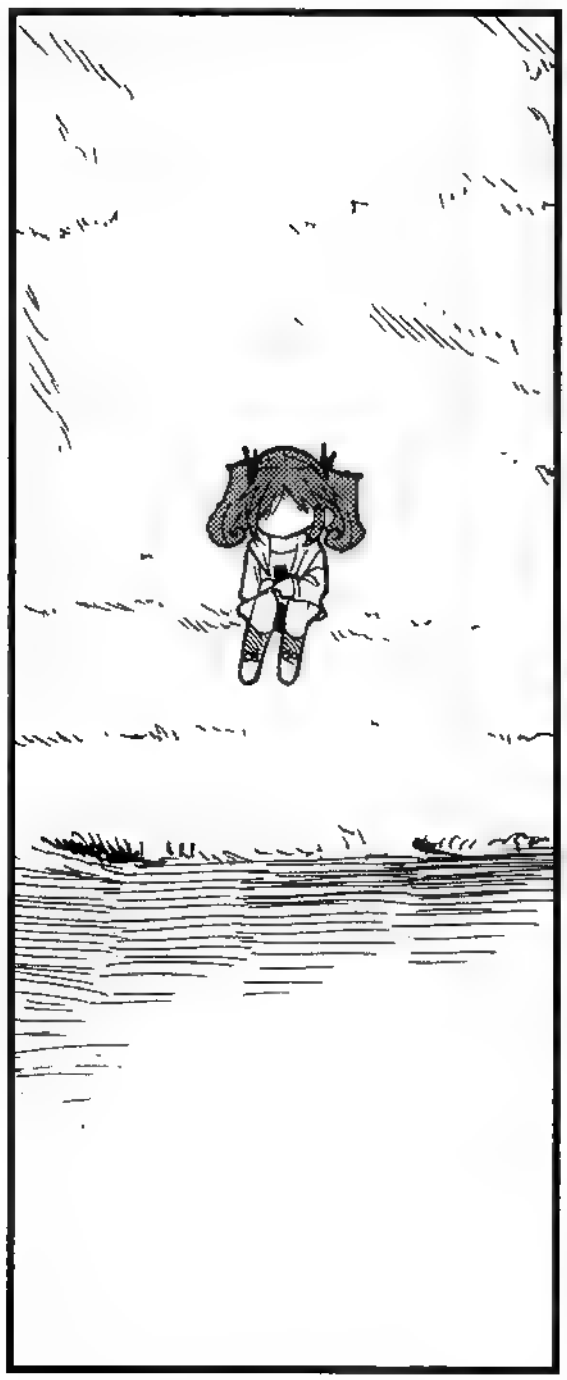
STOP LYING!
I CAN TELL, EVEN OVER THE PHONE!
WHA !?

DIDN'T YOU SAY IT'S MORE IMPORTANT THAN YOUR LIFE!?

I DID THAT TO YOU, YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO!
YOU HATE ME, DON'T YOU!?
I-I DON'T...

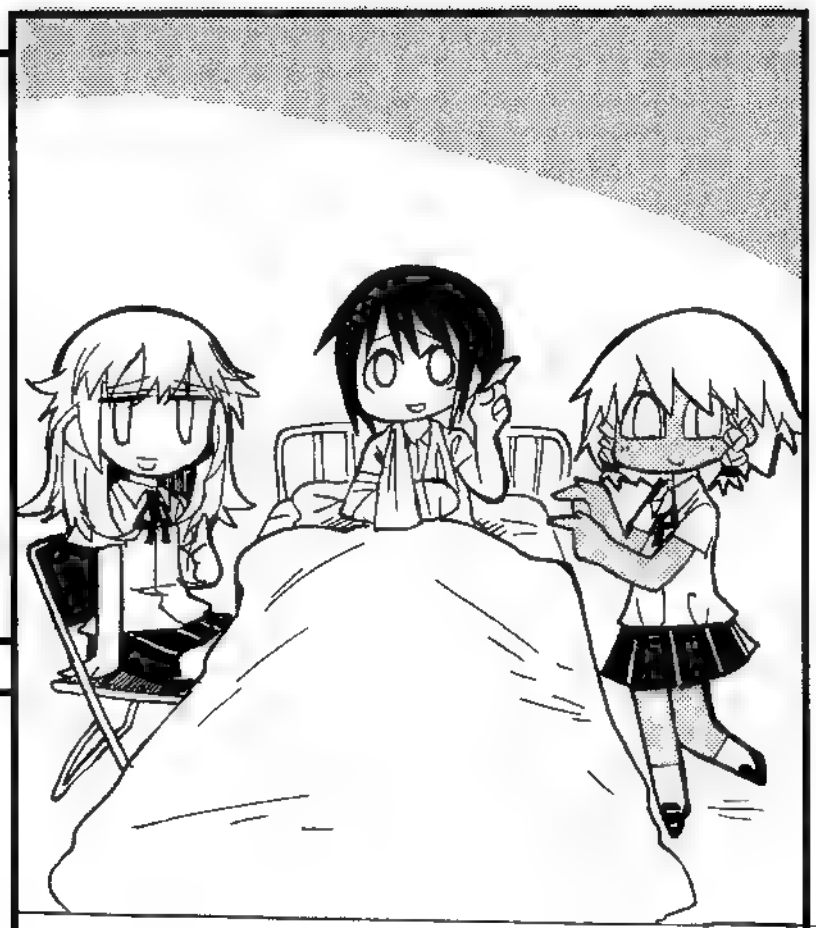
HUH? HEY!
WAIT FOR A SEC.
AH, I KNOW.



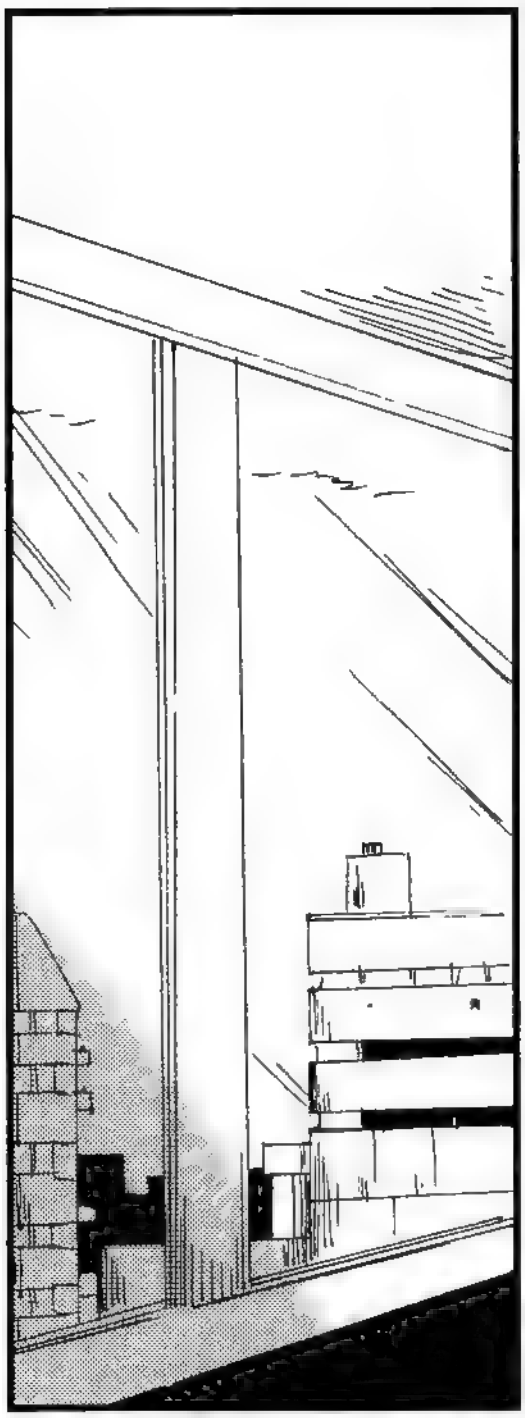


BRRRT...

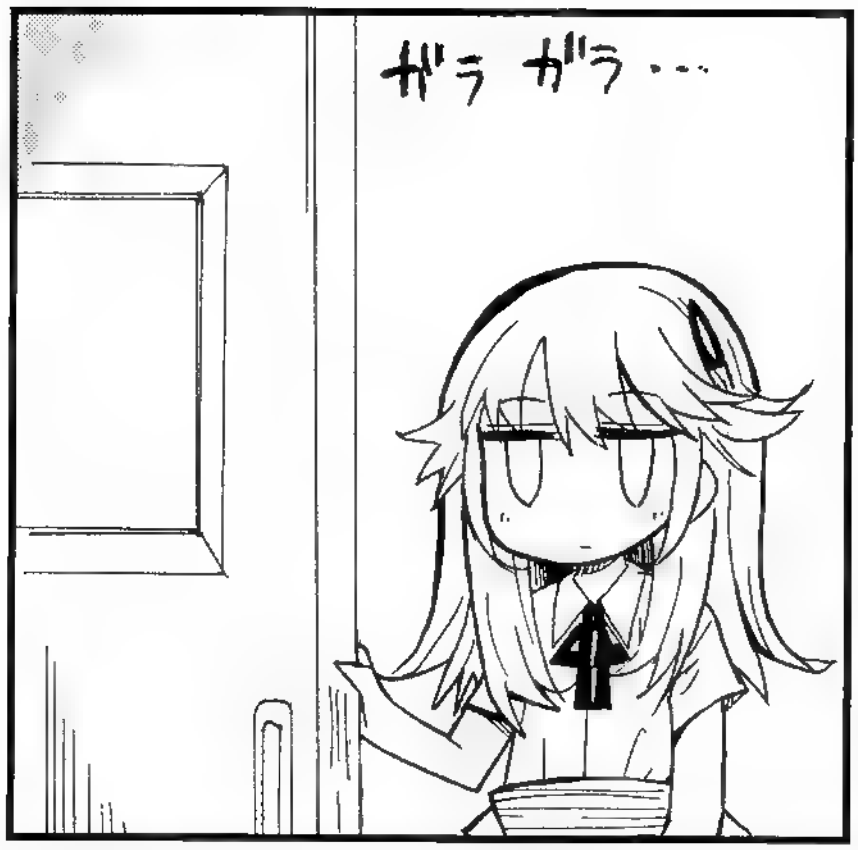
I'M SO STUPID... WHY DID I HAVE TO GET MAD AT HIM?
I WANTED TO APOLOGIZE SO MUCH TOO...

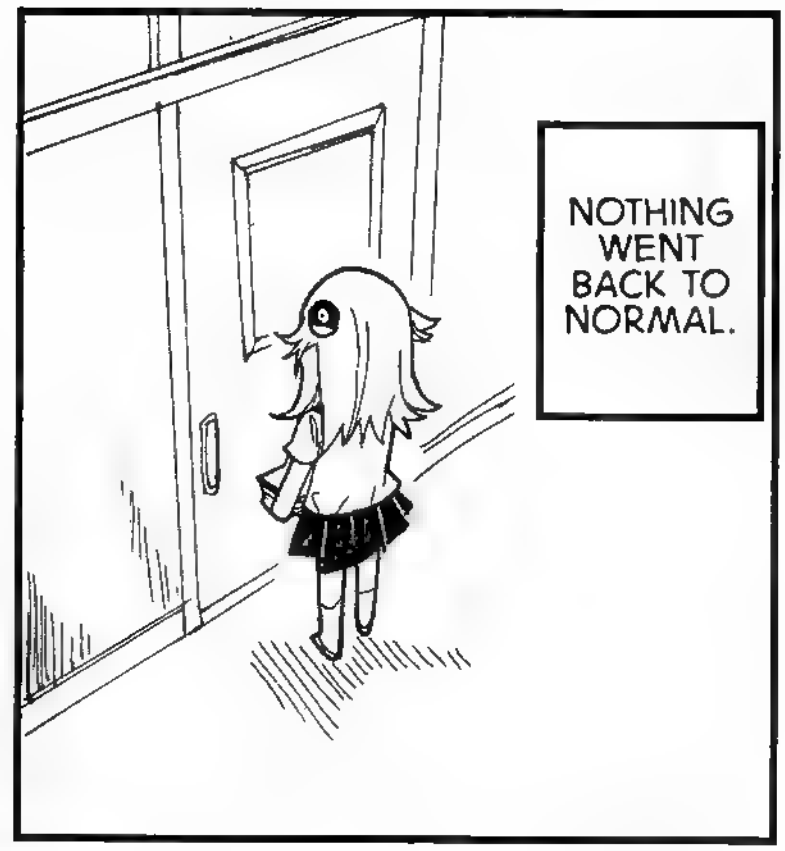


IT'S ALRIGHT NOW



SUWA-KUN IS STILL IN THE HOSPITAL TOO.
THAT BEING SAID, RATHER UNSURPRISINGLY, MORISHITA-CHAN STILL REFUSES TO GO TO CLUB.


ガラ ガラ…


NOTHING WENT BACK TO NORMAL.

AH, PREZ!

I'LL TRY IT LATER.
I FOUND A FUN GAME!

CHECK THIS OUT!

IT'S ALMOST DONE, AFTER ALL.
HERE, OUR SCHEDULE.

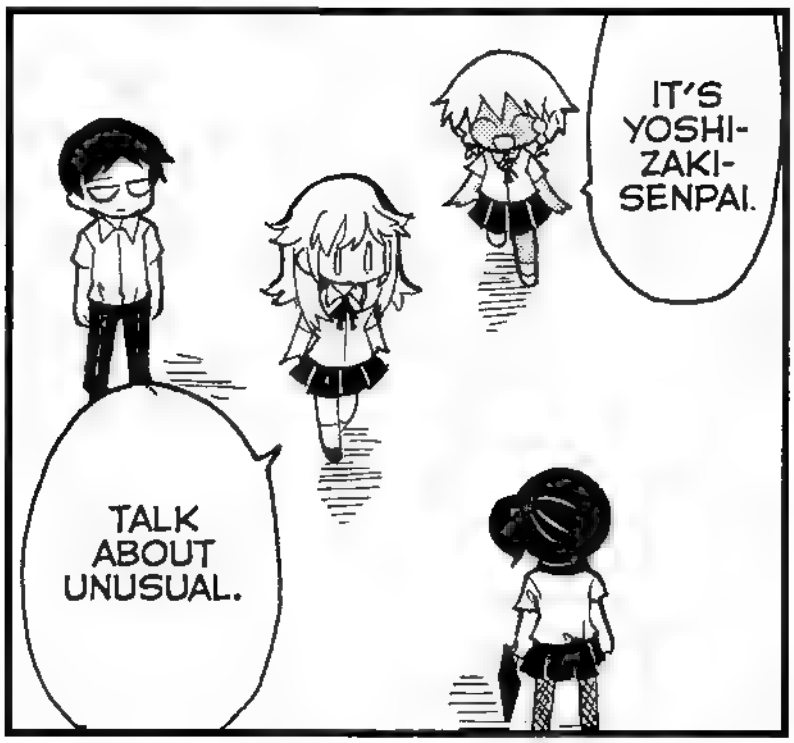
FEELS A BIT LONELY.
WE'RE SORT OF BACK TO FOUR MEMBERS AGAIN, HUH...?

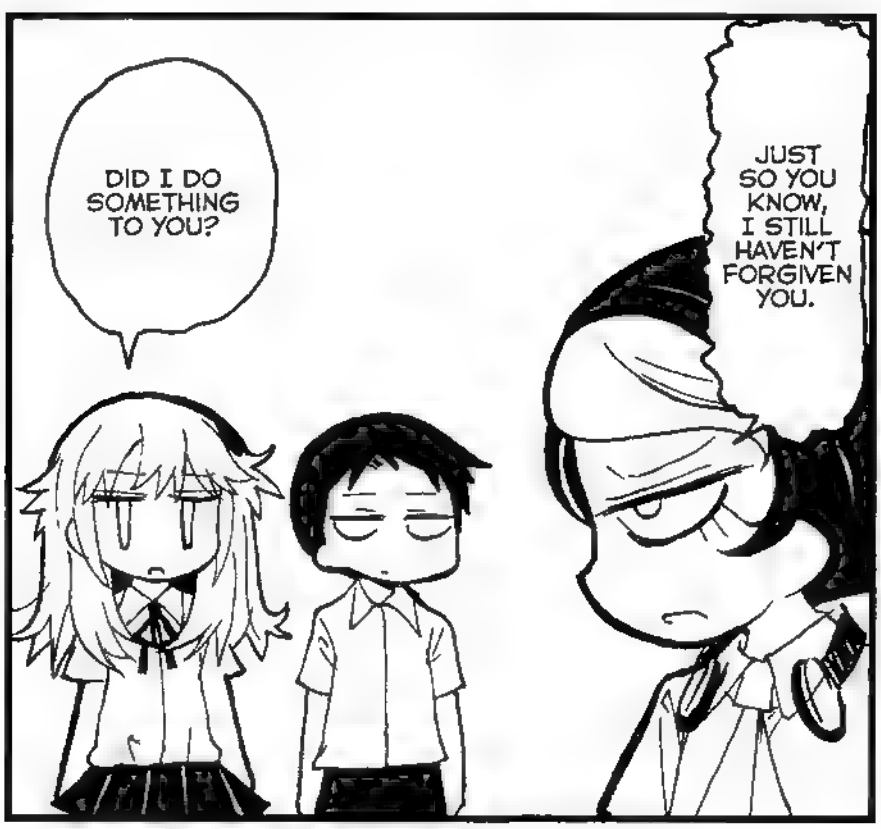
ガラガラ…

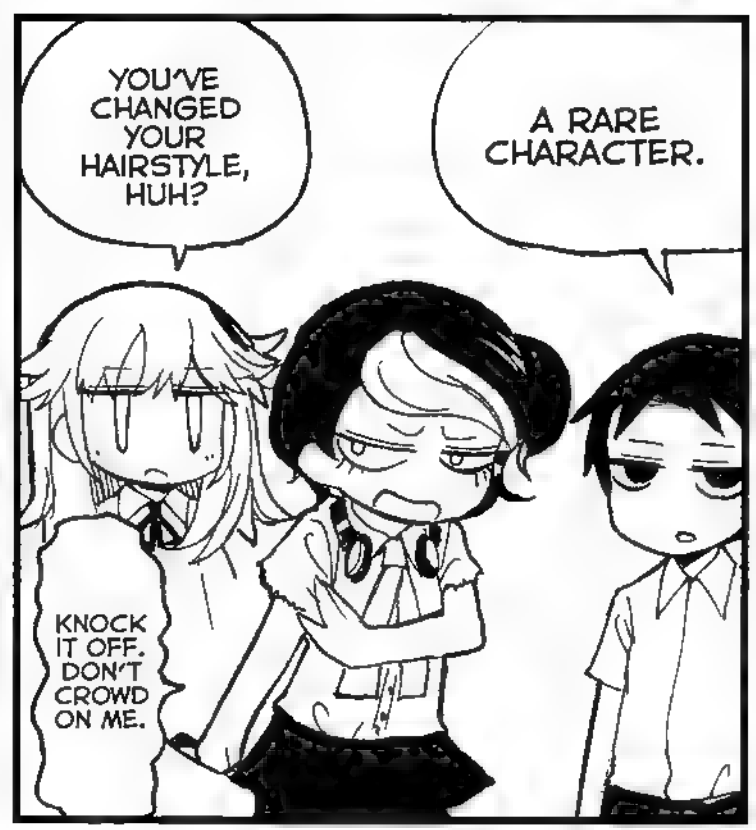
YOSHI-
ZAKI-
SENPAI!

GOOD. I'D LEAVE IF SHE IS.
KAI-SENPAI ISN'T HERE TODAY.

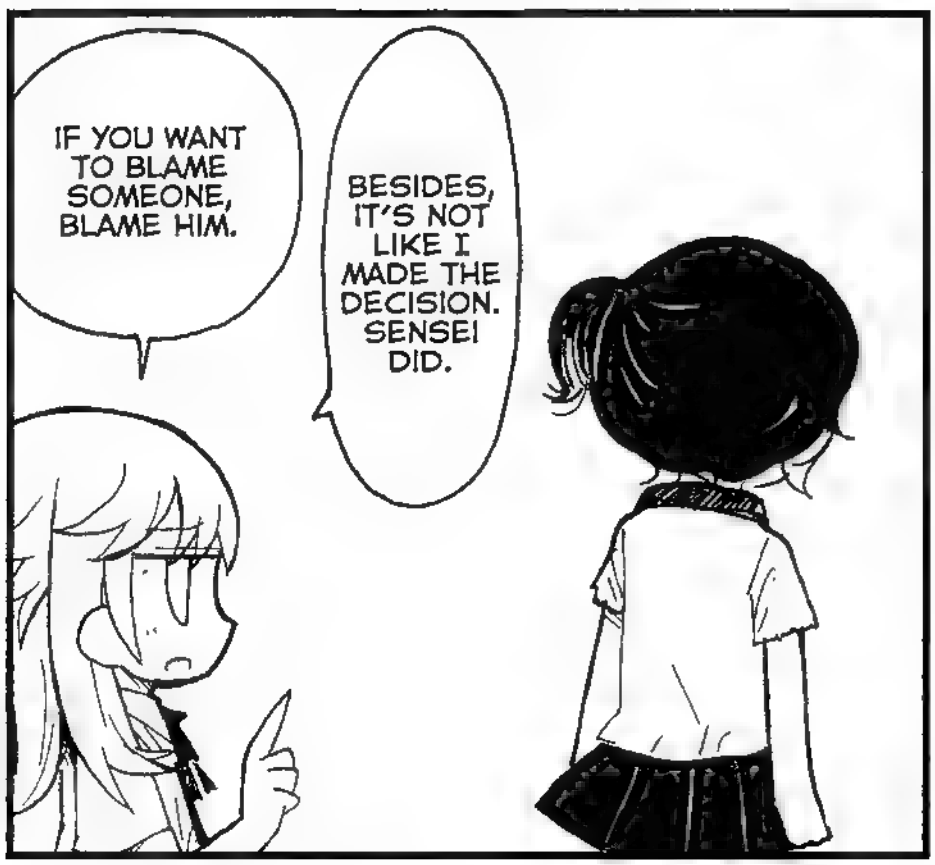
IS KAI HERE?
HUH? WHY ARE YOU ASKING?
IS SHE HERE?


IT'S YOSHI-ZAKI-SENPAI.
TALK ABOUT UNUSUAL.


DID I DO SOMETHING TO YOU?
JUST SO YOU KNOW, I STILL HAVEN'T FORGIVEN YOU.

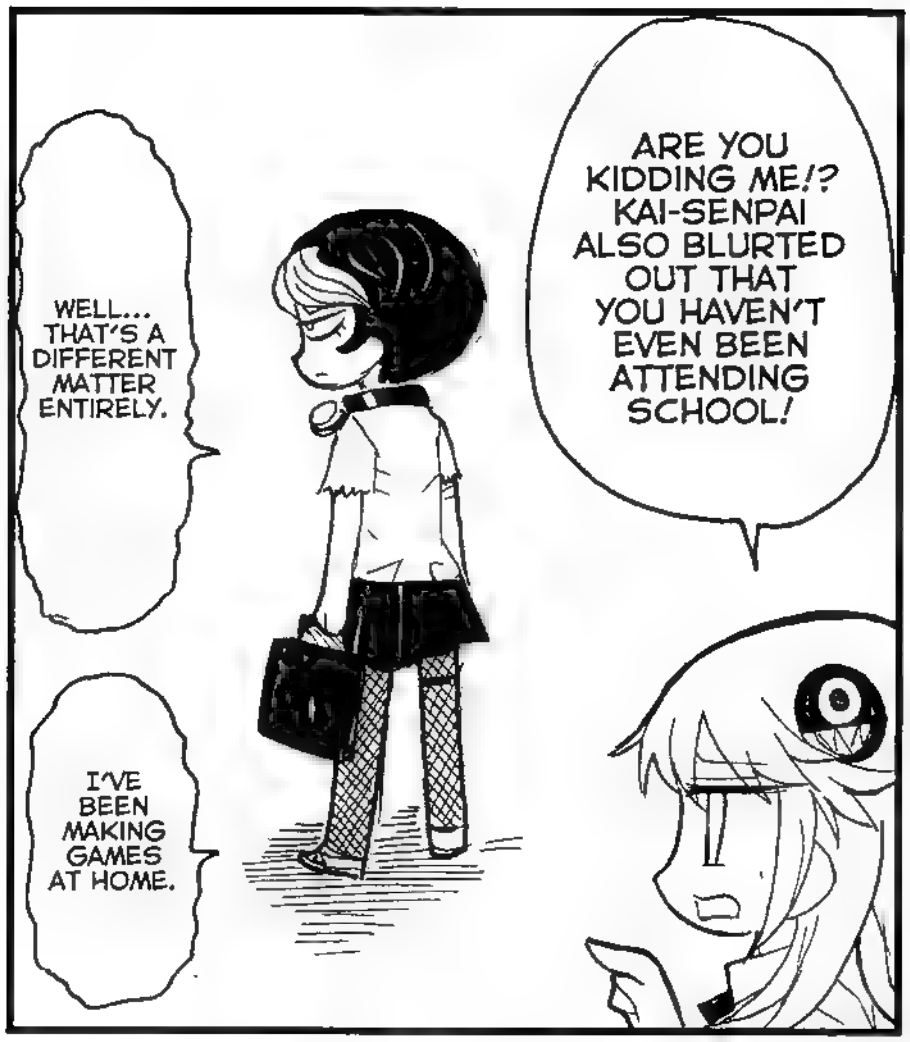

YOU'VE CHANGED YOUR HAIRSTYLE, HUH?
A RARE CHARACTER.
KNOCK IT OFF. DON'T CROWD ON ME.

PRESIDENT WAS SIMPLY A BETTER CHOICE.
THAT WAS JUST NATURAL.

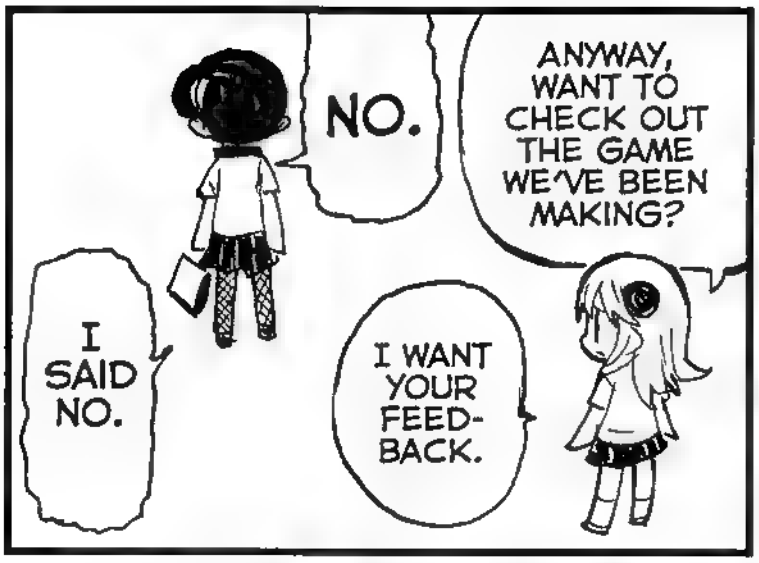

IF YOU WANT TO BLAME SOMEONE, BLAME HIM.
BESIDES, IT'S NOT LIKE I MADE THE DECISION. SENSEI DID.

GEEZ, YOU'RE STILL HUNG UP ON THAT?
YOU STOLE THE CLUB PRESIDENT POSITION FROM ME.

DON'T ACT LIKE YOU UNDER-STAND HOW I FEEL!
SHUT UP.


WELL... THAT'S A DIFFERENT MATTER ENTIRELY.
I'VE BEEN MAKING GAMES AT HOME.
ARE YOU KIDDING ME!? KAI-SENPAI ALSO BLURTED OUT THAT YOU HAVEN'T EVEN BEEN ATTENDING SCHOOL!

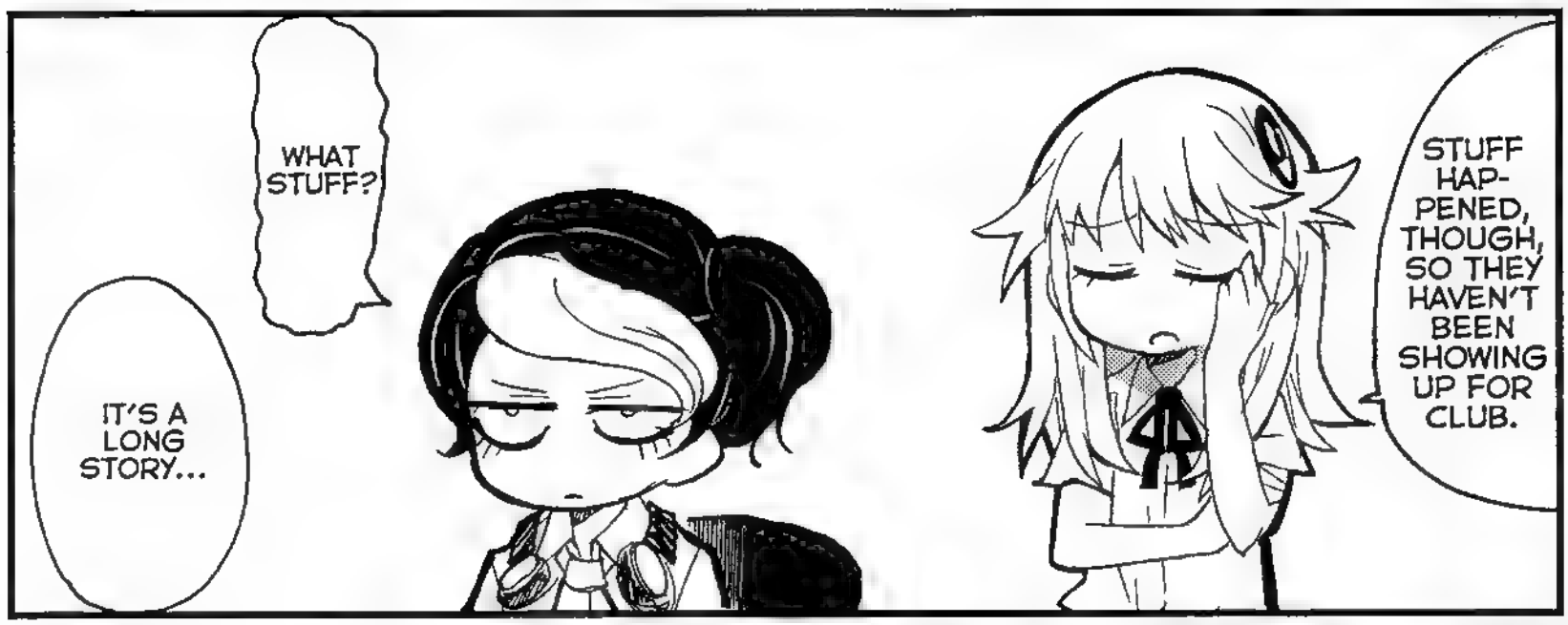
YEAH.
THAT'S THE REASON WHY YOU HAVEN'T BEEN SHOWING UP FOR CLUB?

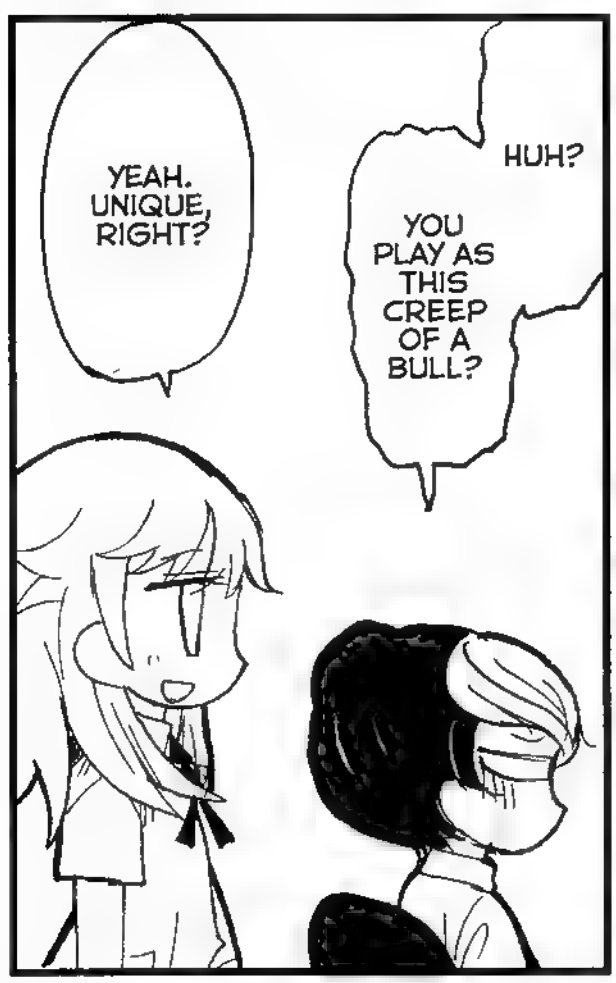

NO.
I SAID NO.
ANYWAY, WANT TO CHECK OUT THE GAME WE'VE BEEN MAKING?
I WANT YOUR FEED-BACK.

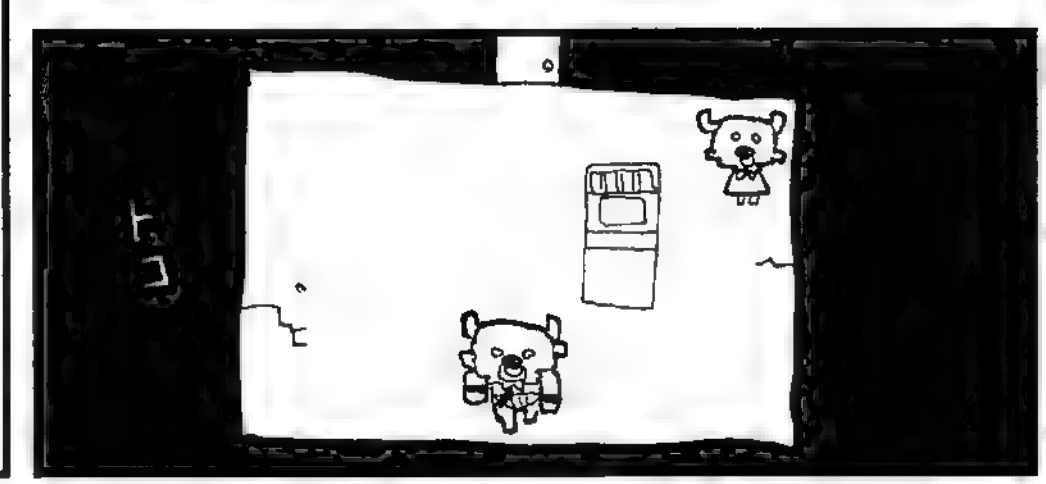
NO.
YOU SHOULD'VE JUST DONE THAT HERE.
WELL, I'M NOT GOING TO FORCE YOU.

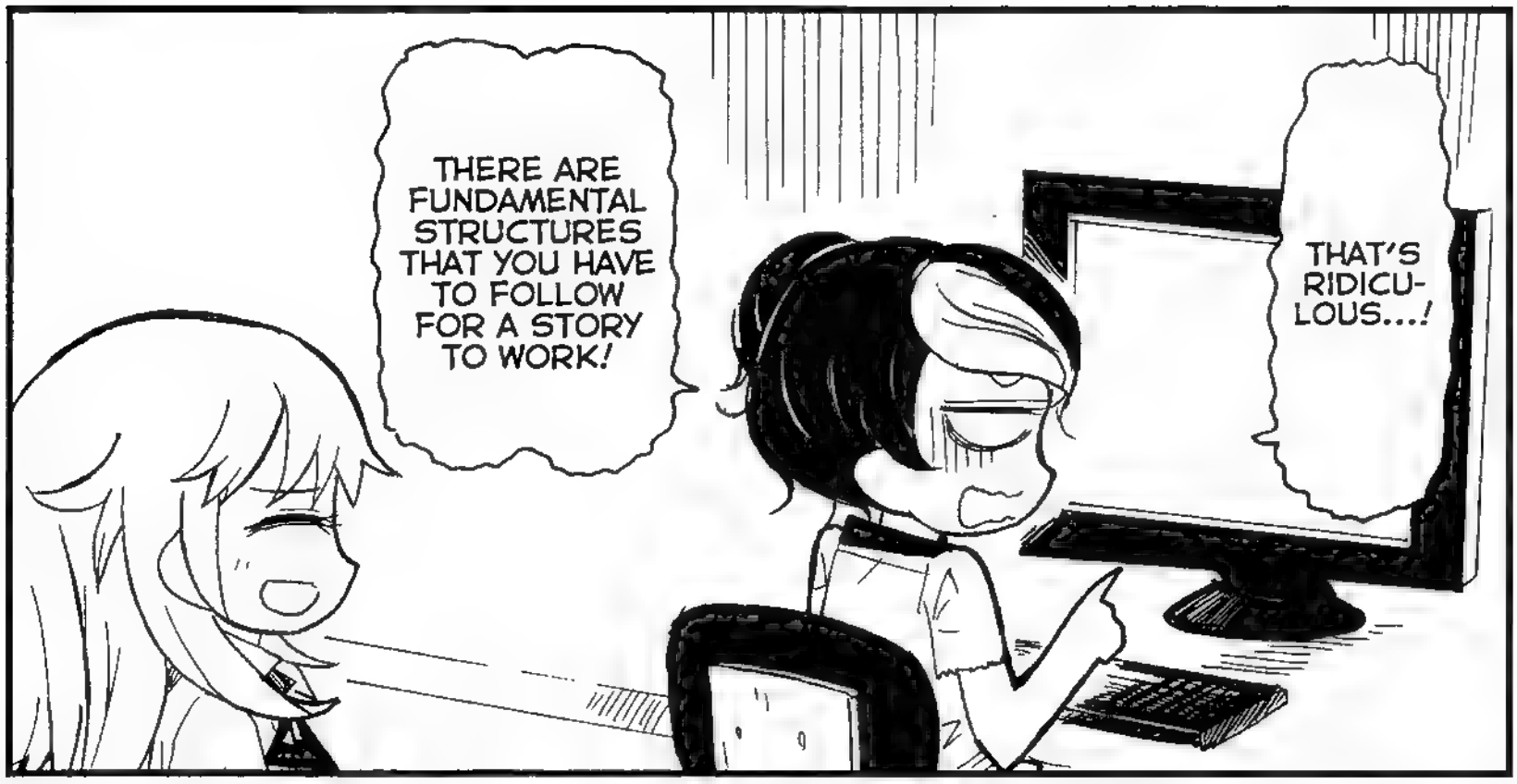
AH. ACTU-ALLY, I'LL GIVE IT A TRY.

OUR FIRST-YEARS MADE THIS.
MONSTER'S AGONY
PLAY

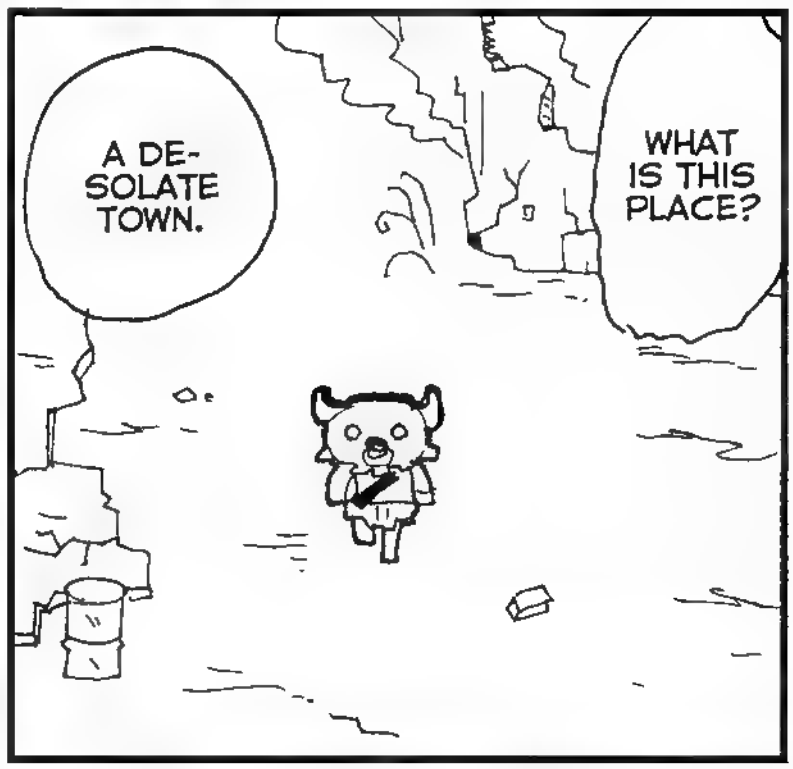

WHAT STUFF?
IT'S A LONG STORY...
STUFF HAP-PENED, THOUGH, SO THEY HAVEN'T BEEN SHOWING UP FOR CLUB.

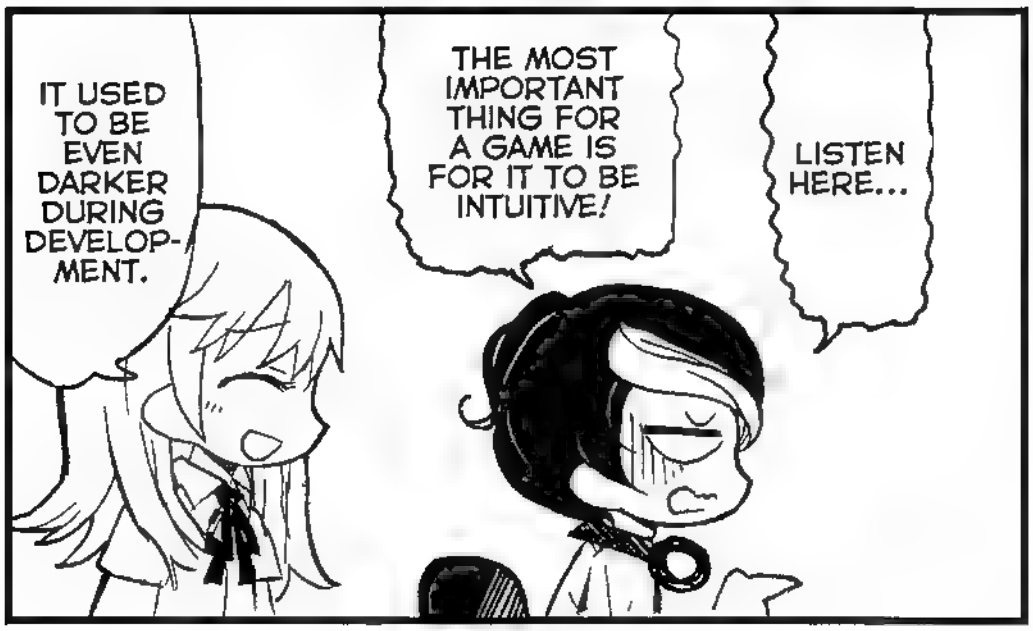

YEAH. UNIQUE, RIGHT?
HUH?
YOU PLAY AS THIS CREEP OF A BULL?



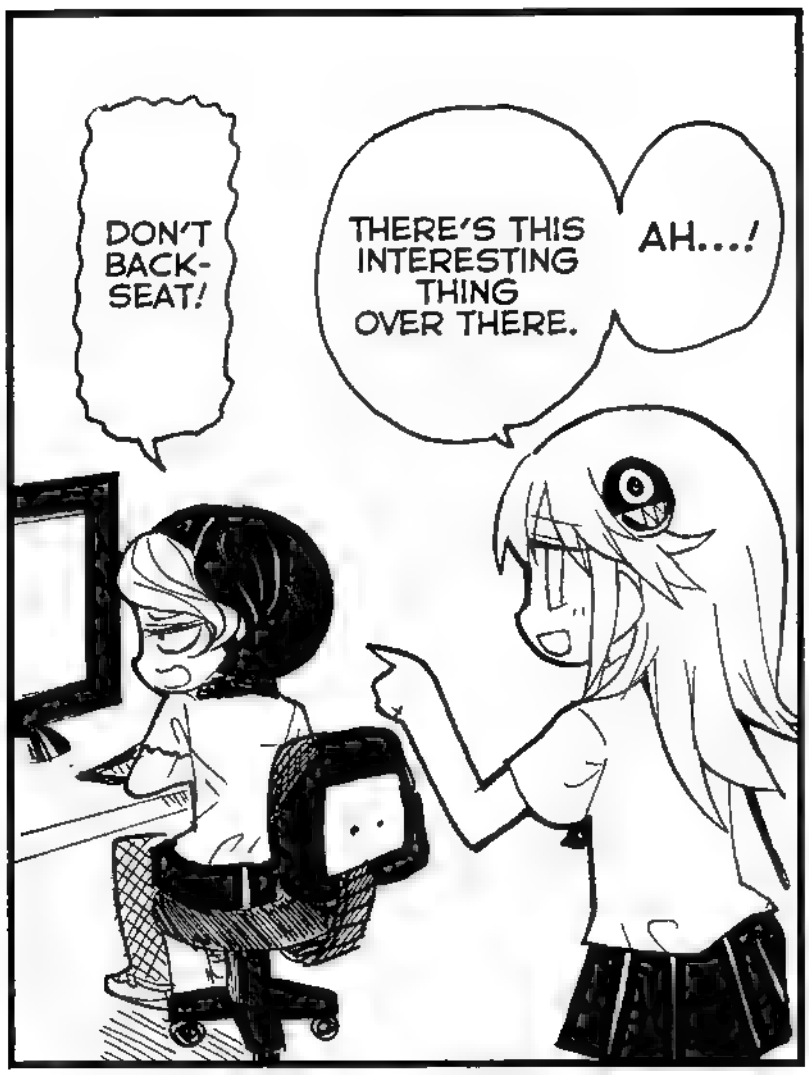

THERE ARE FUNDAMENTAL STRUCTURES THAT YOU HAVE TO FOLLOW FOR A STORY TO WORK!
THAT'S RIDICU-LOUS...!

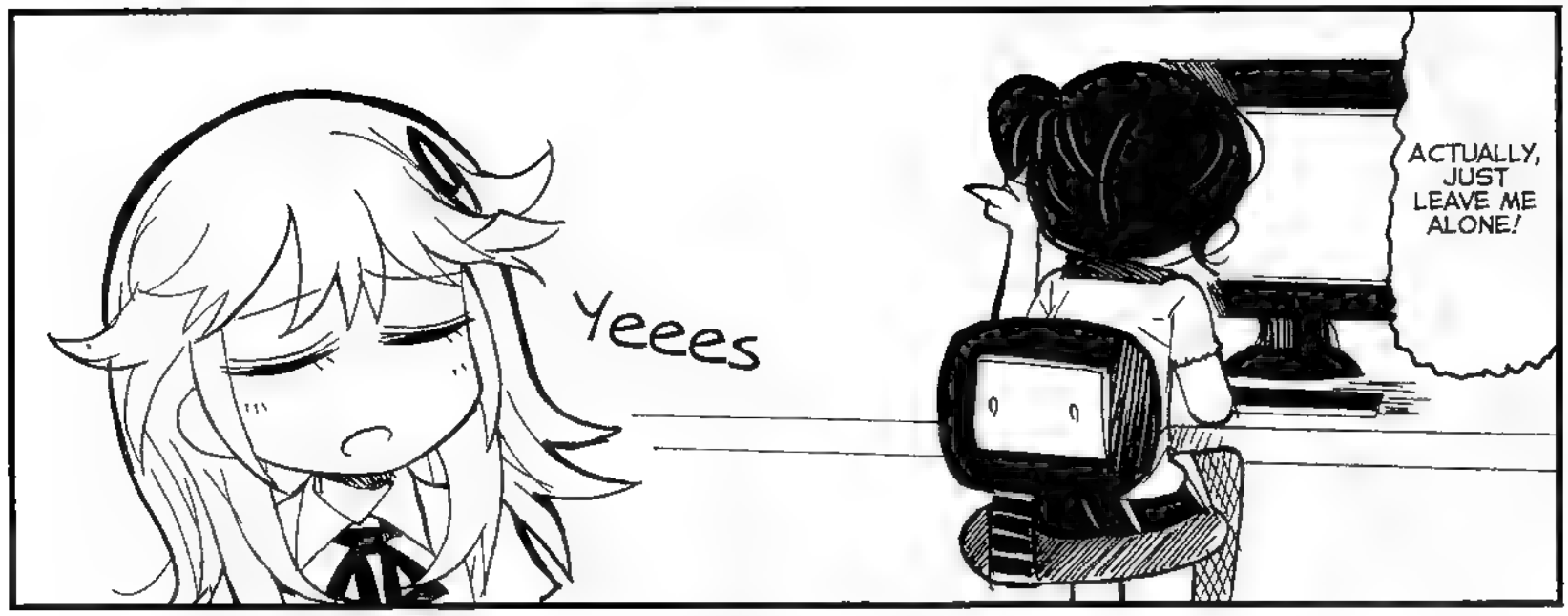
WHO AM I FIGHTING? WHO DO I GOTTA BEAT?
THE TOWNS-FOLK.


A DE-SOLATE TOWN.
WHAT IS THIS PLACE?


IT USED TO BE EVEN DARKER DURING DEVELOP-MENT.
THE MOST IMPORTANT THING FOR A GAME IS FOR IT TO BE INTUITIVE!
LISTEN HERE...

OH HEY YOU IDIOT

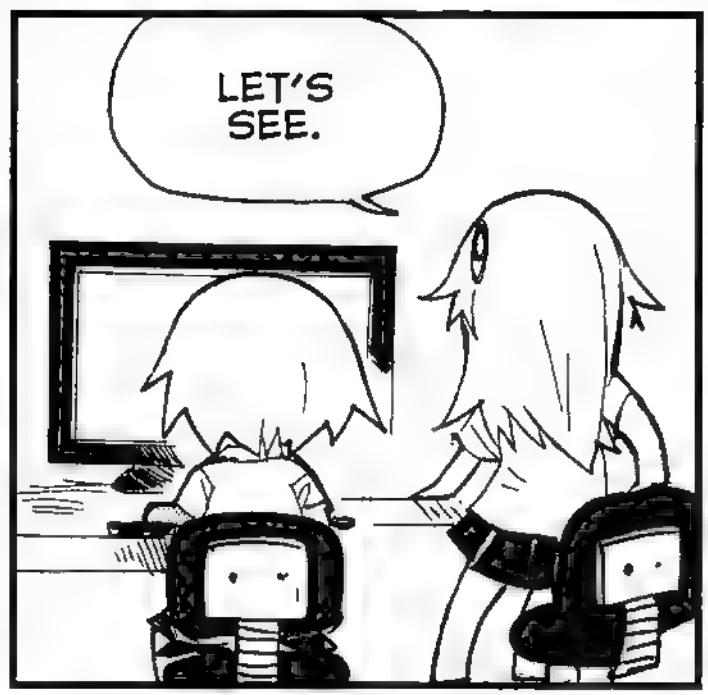

DON'T BACK-SEAT!
THERE'S THIS INTERESTING THING OVER THERE.
AH...!


Yeees
ACTUALLY, JUST LEAVE ME ALONE!

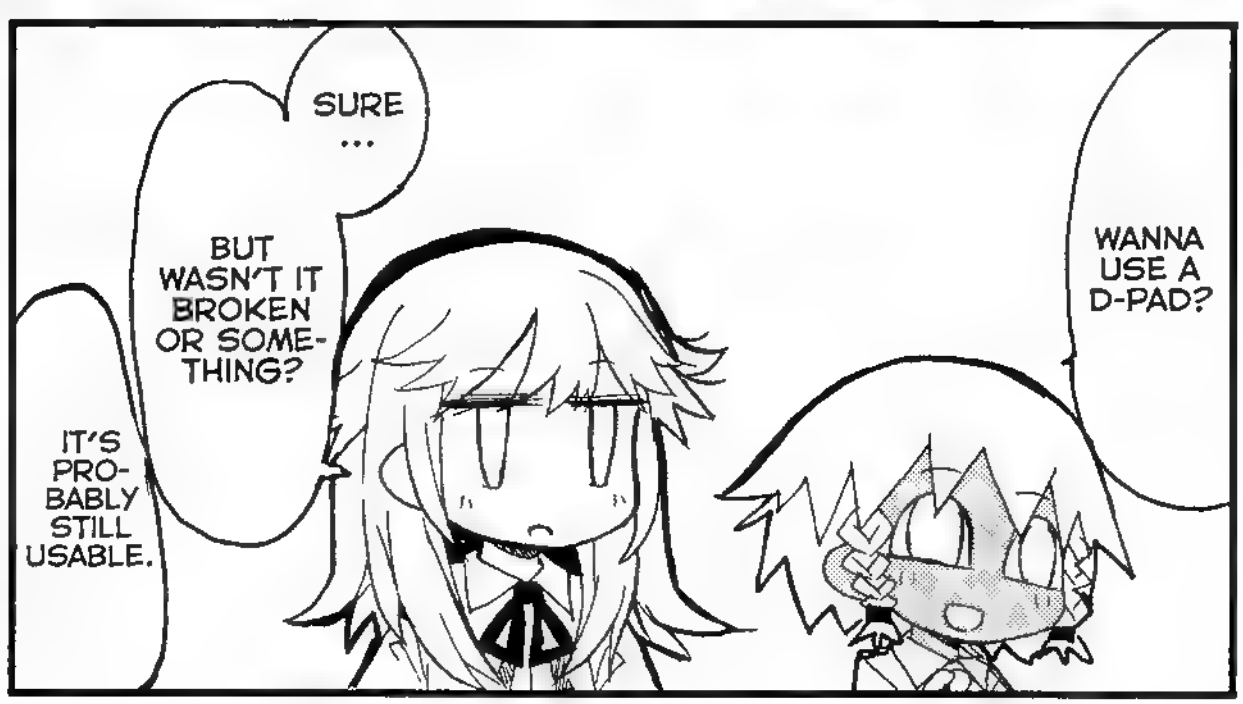
I JUST KNEW OF IT RECENTLY, THOUGH.
IT'S REALLY WELL MADE.
YOU'VE BEEN PLAYING THIS A LOT LATELY, HUH?

PREZ, LET'S PLAY.

YEAH.
IT'S SO CRAMPED, SHARING A KEYBOARD.

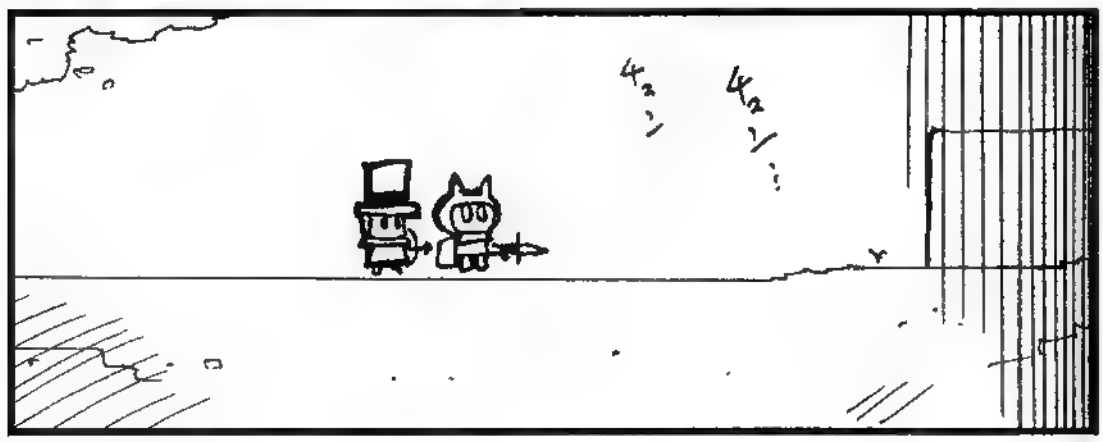

LET'S SEE.

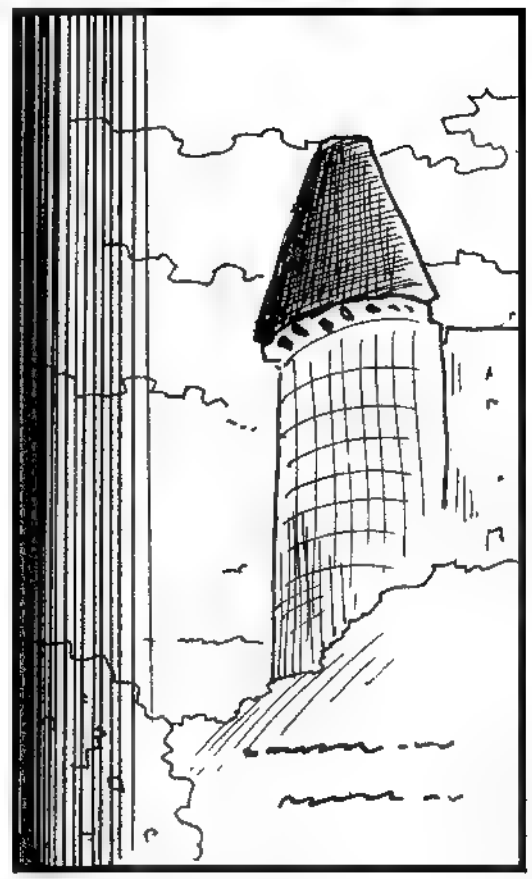
I'LL GO GET IT.

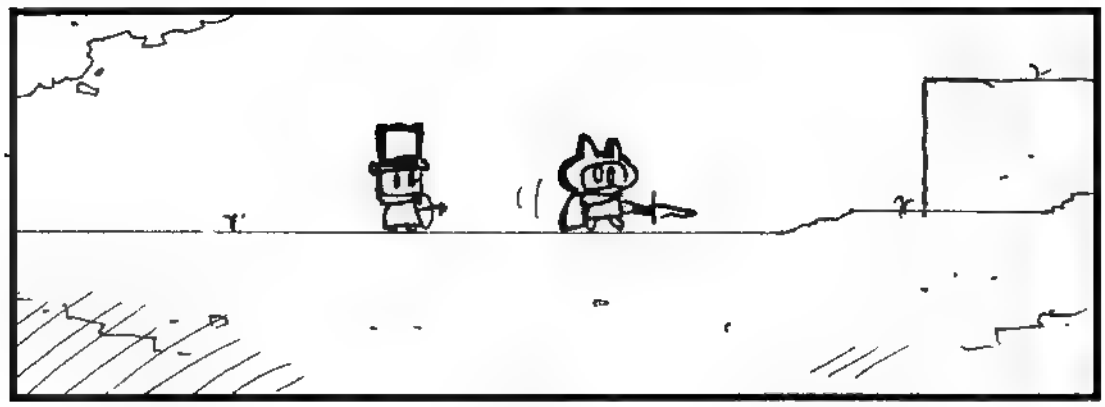

SURE ...
BUT WASN'T IT BROKEN OR SOME-THING?
IT'S PRO-BABLY STILL USABLE.
WANNA USE A D-PAD?

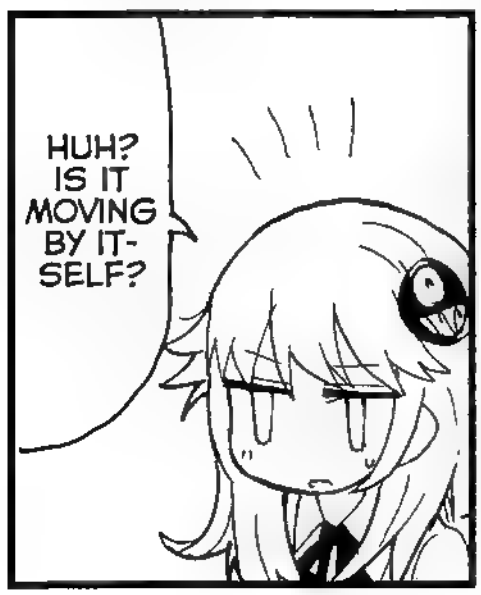
LET'S TRY IT OUT.

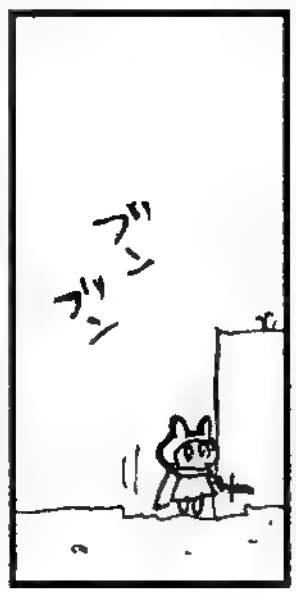
HERE!








HUH? IS IT MOVING BY IT-SELF?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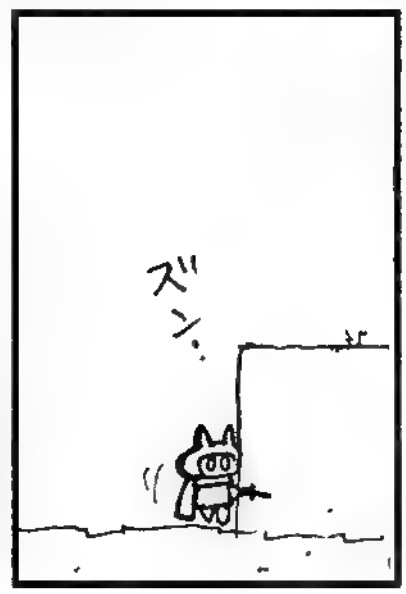
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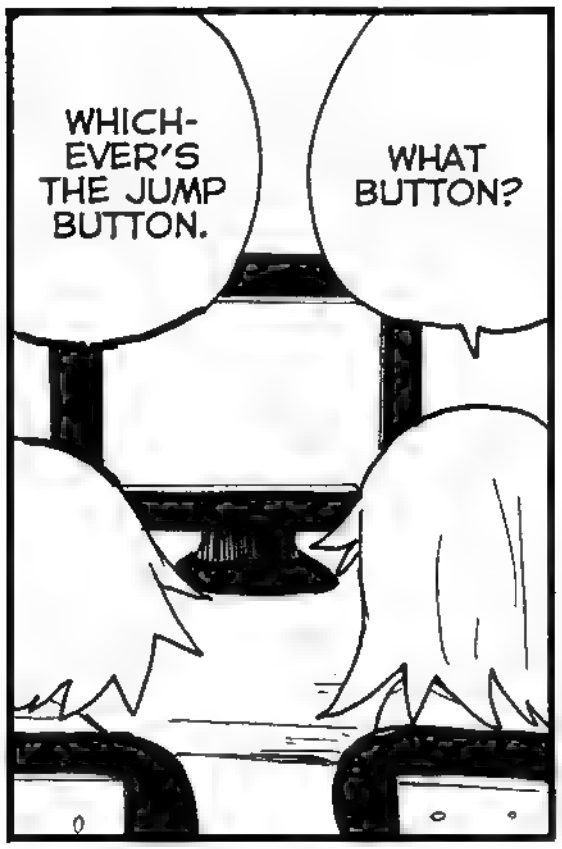
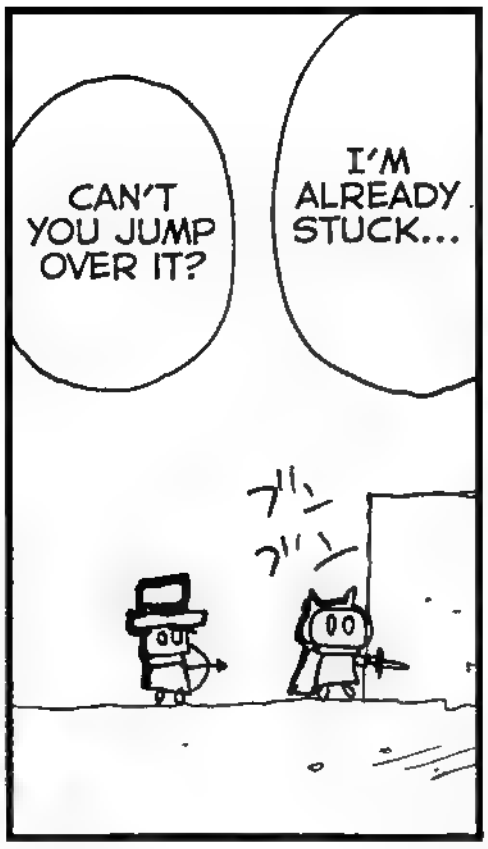

WHICH-EVER'S THE JUMP BUTTON.
WHAT BUTTON?


CAN'T YOU JUMP OVER IT?
I'M ALREADY STUCK...

THAT LOOKED SO NATURAL, I THOUGHT IT WAS A CUTSCENE.

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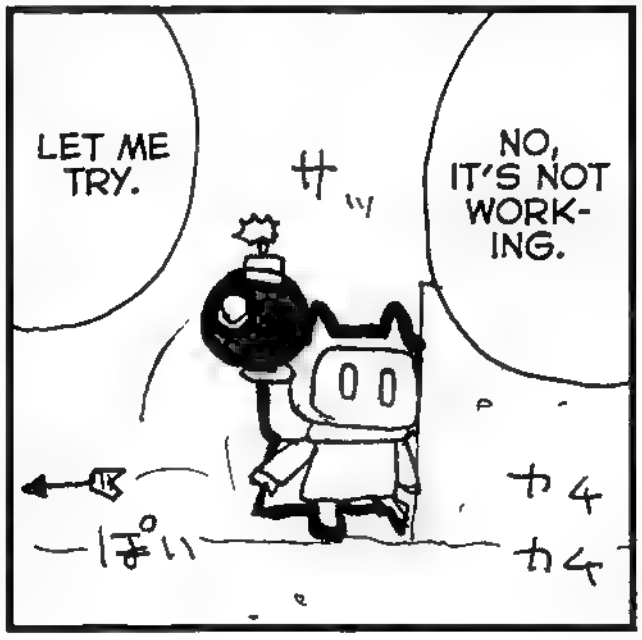
AH, PRESSING THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION STOPS IT.
ピタ...


LET ME TRY.
NO, IT'S NOT WORK-ING.
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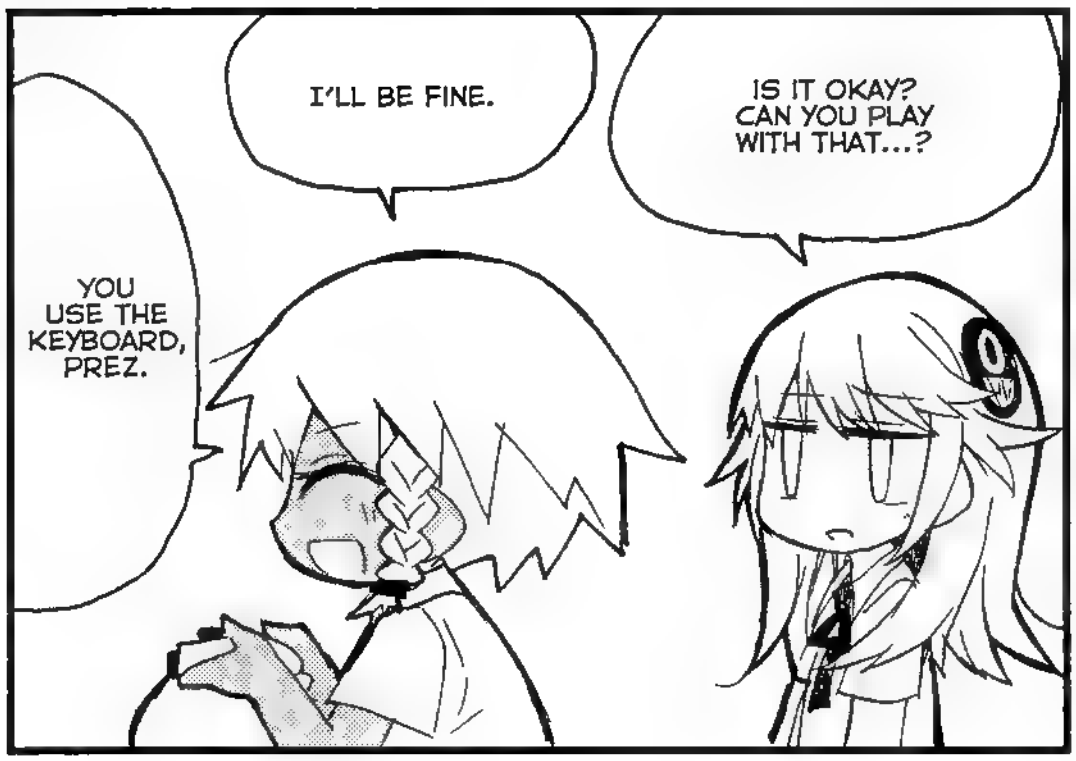
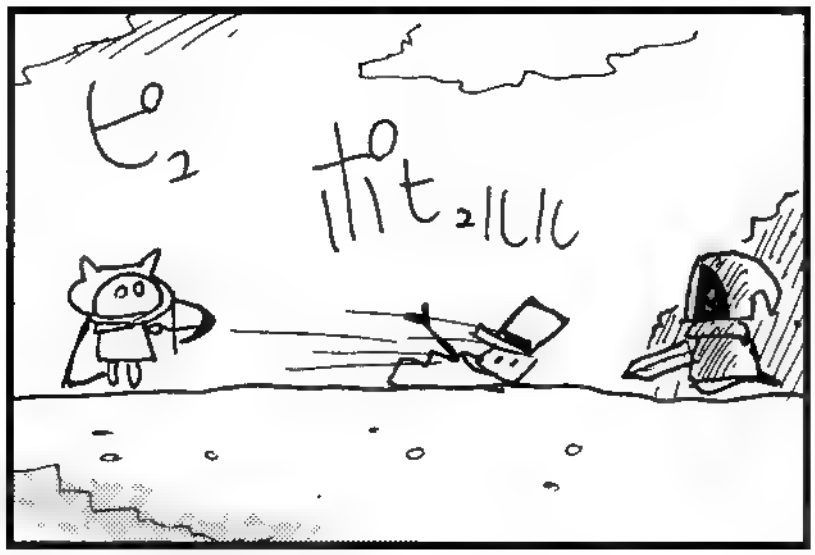
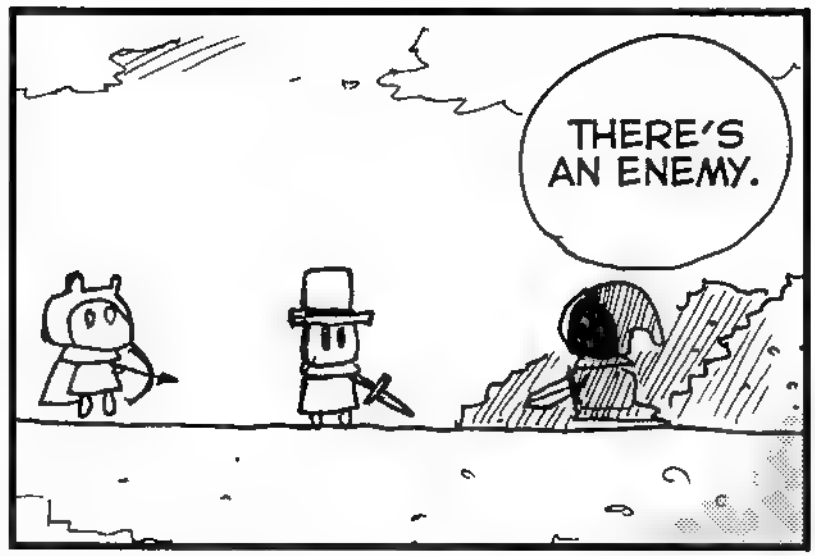
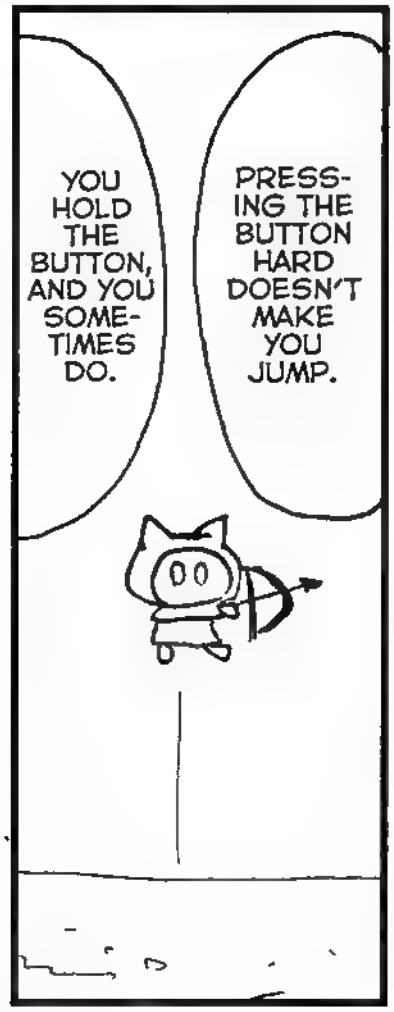
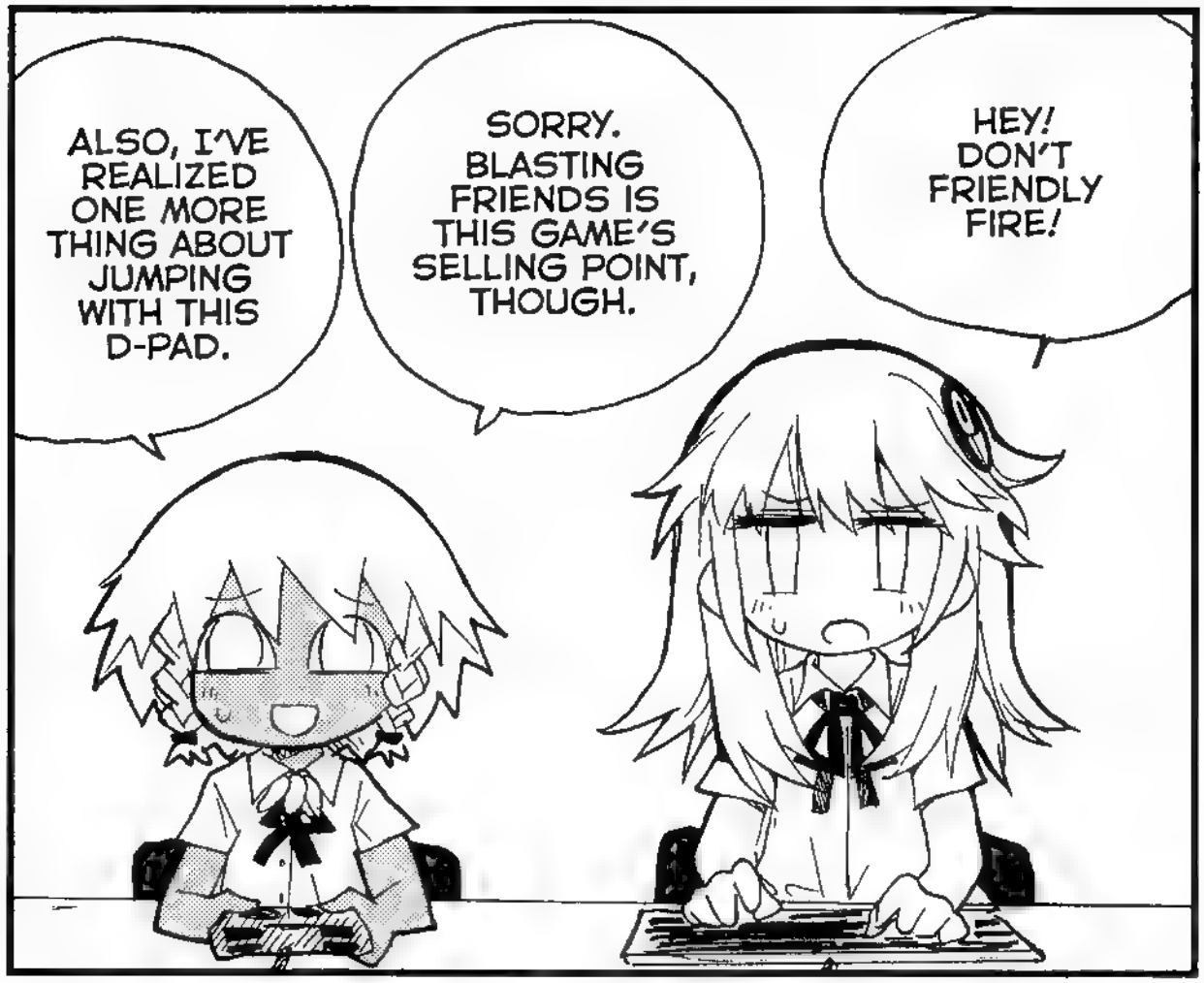

I'LL BE FINE.
IS IT OKAY? CAN YOU PLAY WITH THAT...?
YOU USE THE KEYBOARD, PREZ.

THAT'S A PRETTY HIGH JUMP.
I PRESSED THIS JUMP-BUTTON LOOKING BUTTON REAL HARD.

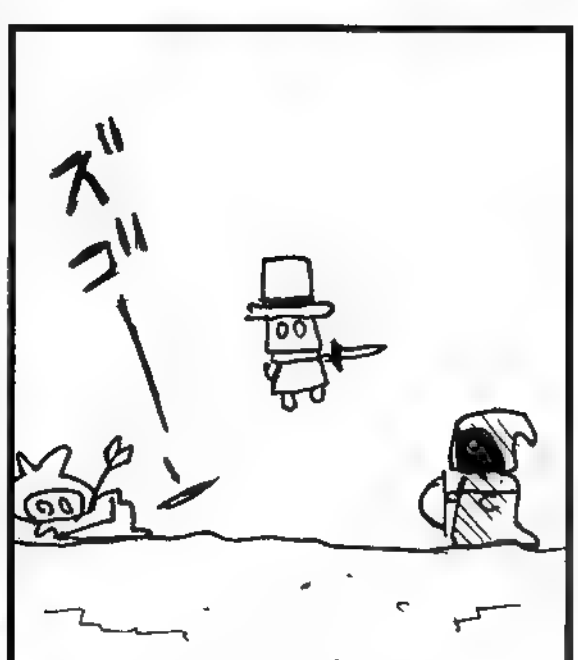



THERE'S AN ENEMY.


YOU HOLD THE BUTTON, AND YOU SOME-TIMES DO.
PRESS-ING THE BUTTON HARD DOESN'T MAKE YOU JUMP.


ALSO, I'VE REALIZED ONE MORE THING ABOUT JUMPING WITH THIS D-PAD.
SORRY. BLASTING FRIENDS IS THIS GAME'S SELLING POINT, THOUGH.
HEY! DON'T FRIENDLY FIRE!

BESHIKO!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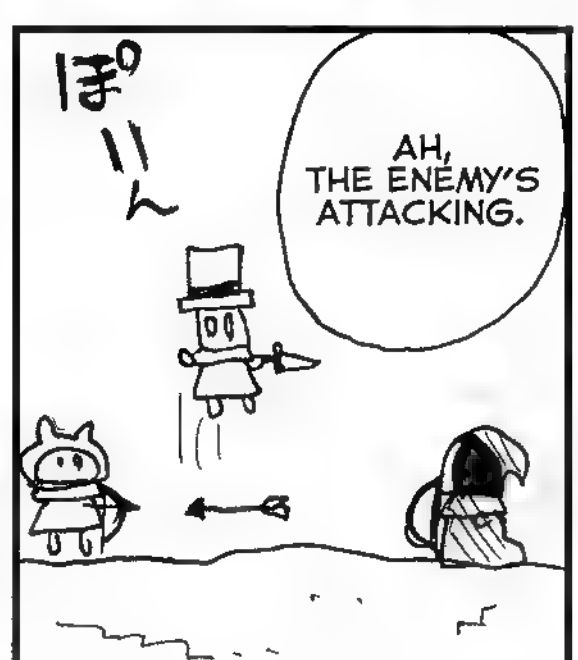
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AH, THE ENEMY'S ATTACKING.

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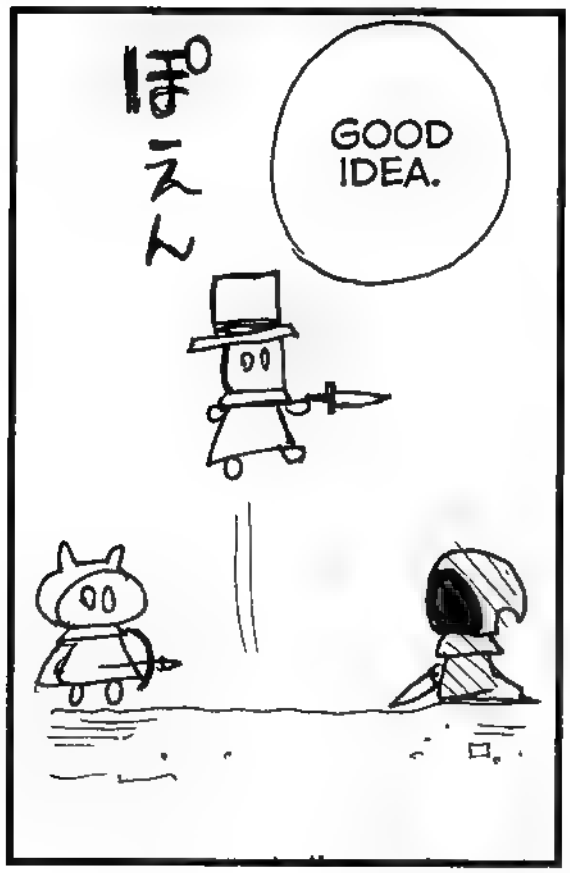
IT'S MY TURN NOW.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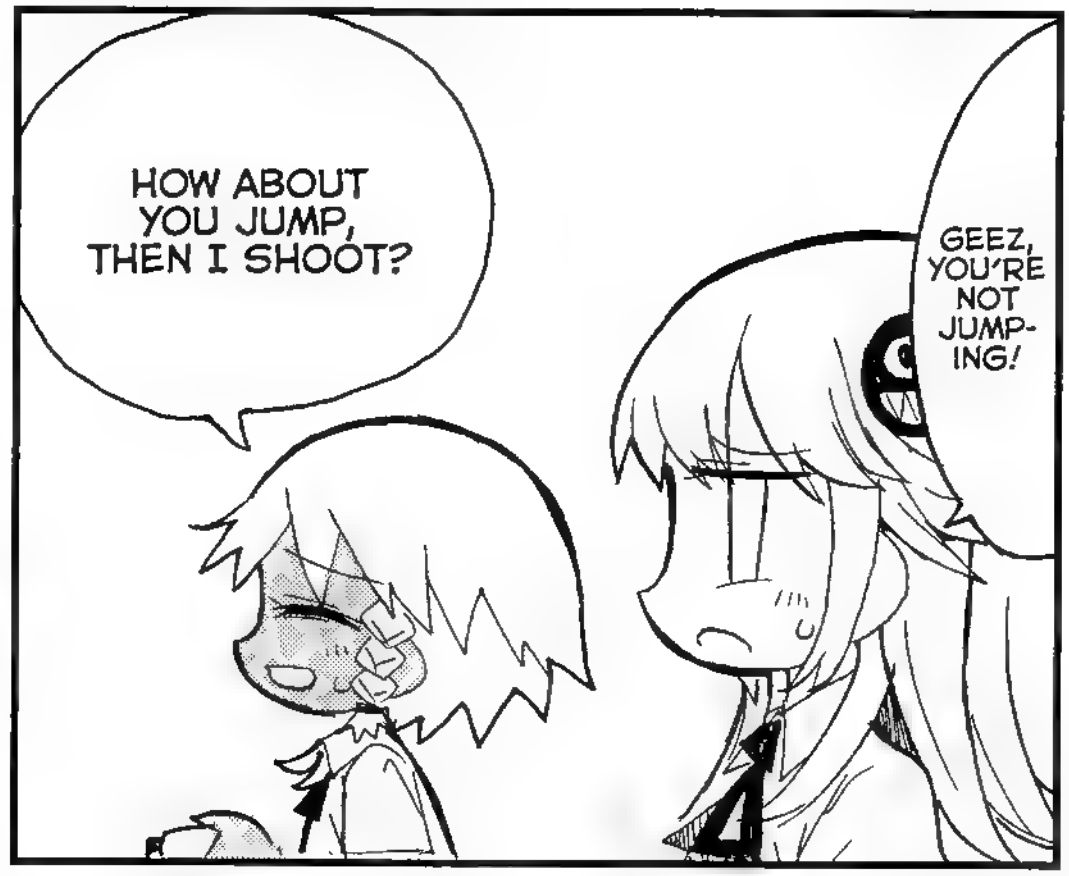
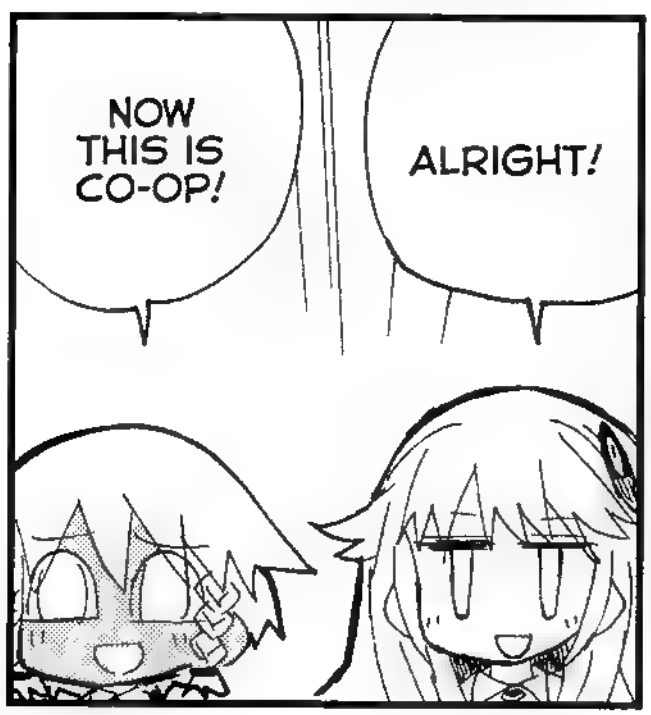
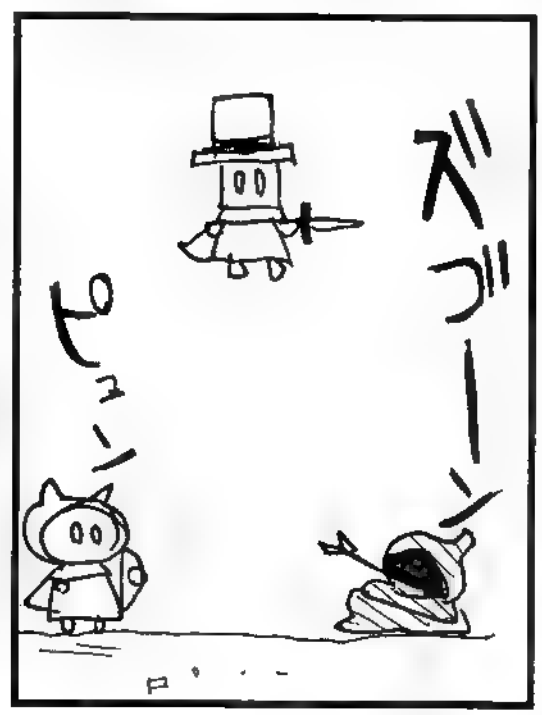
GOOD IDEA.


HOW ABOUT YOU JUMP, THEN I SHOOT?
GEEZ, YOU'RE NOT JUMP-ING!


NOW THIS IS CO-OP!
ALRIGHT!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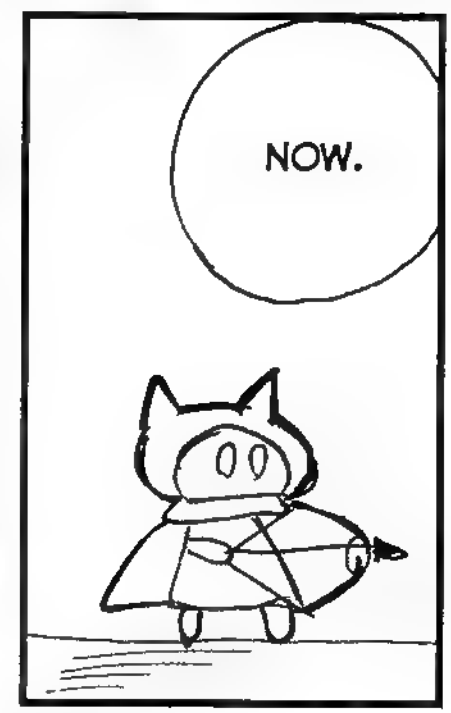
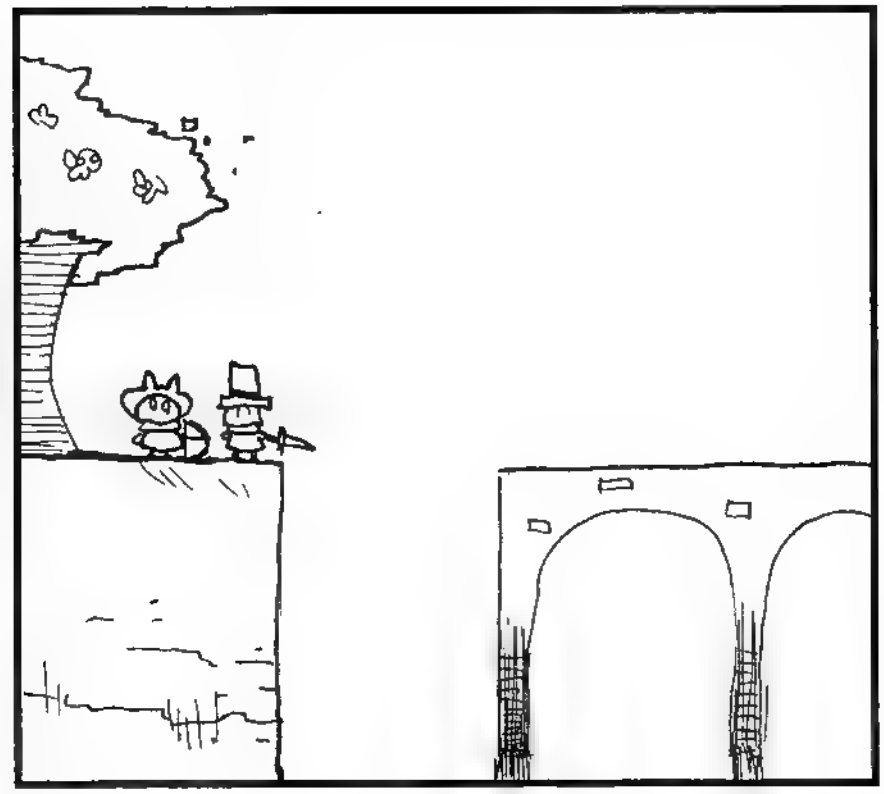
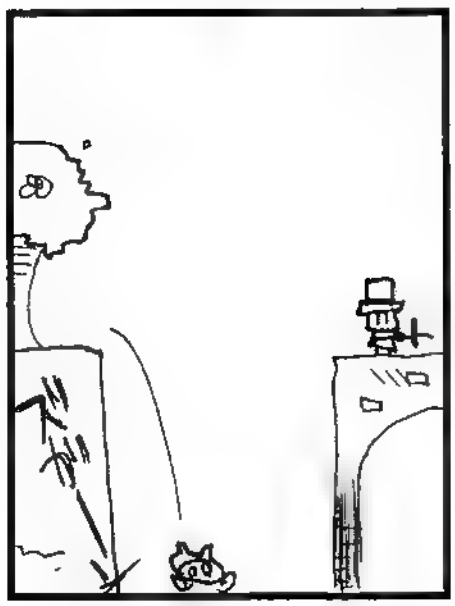

NOW.

CAN YOU JUMP ACROSS THIS?
HEY,

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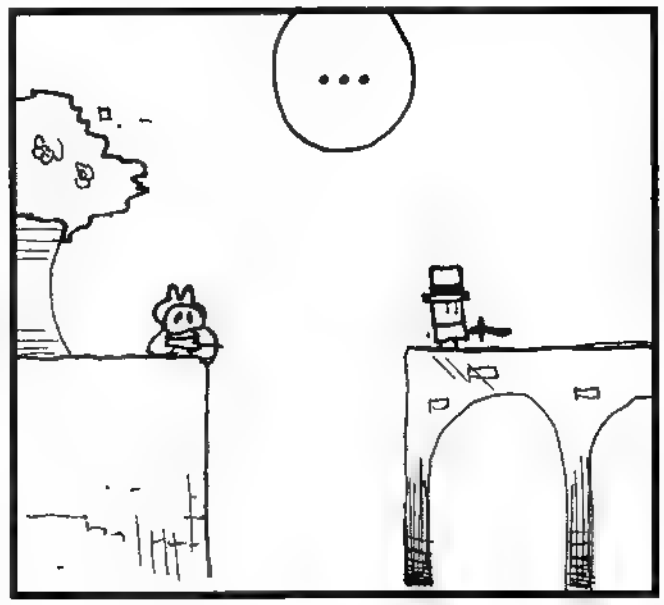
...

SURE I CAN.
WELL, BESHIKO?
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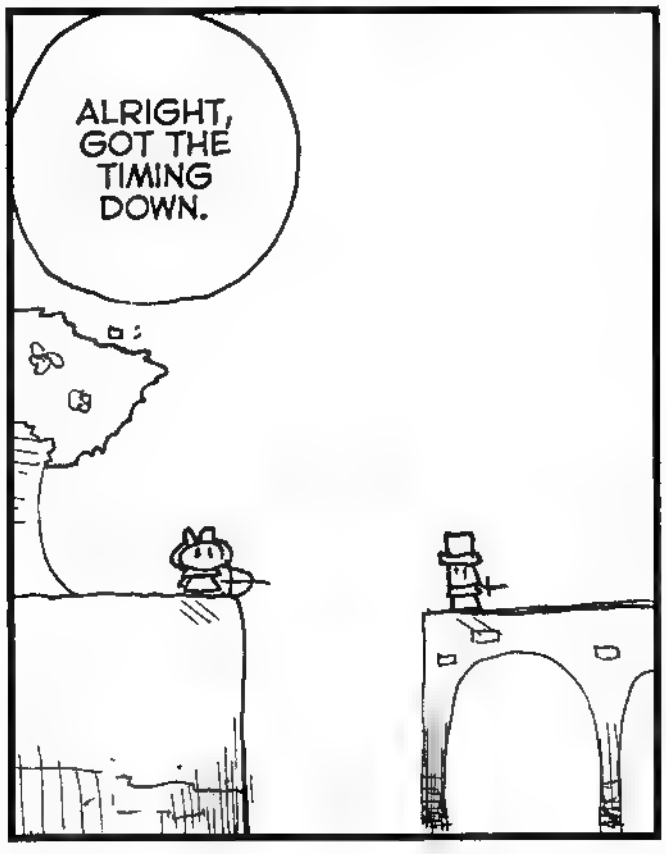
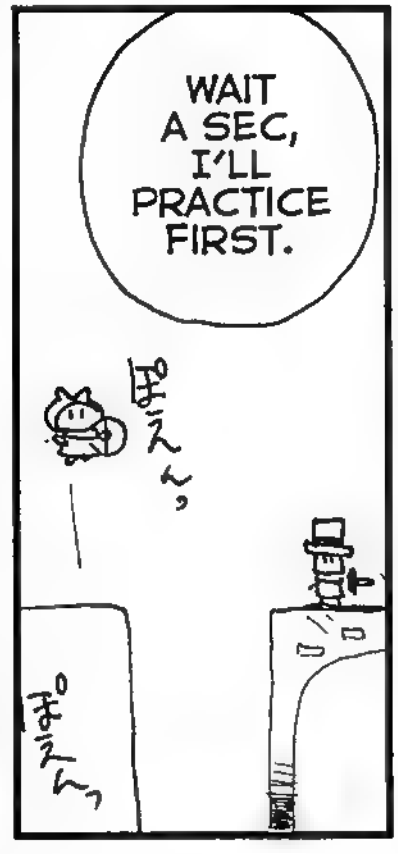

ALRIGHT, GOT THE TIMING DOWN.


WAIT A SEC, I'LL PRACTICE FIRST.
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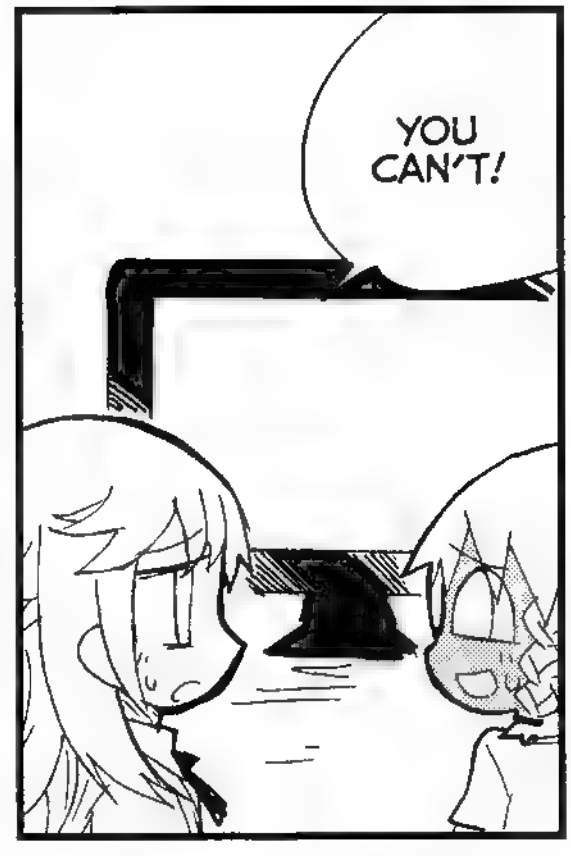
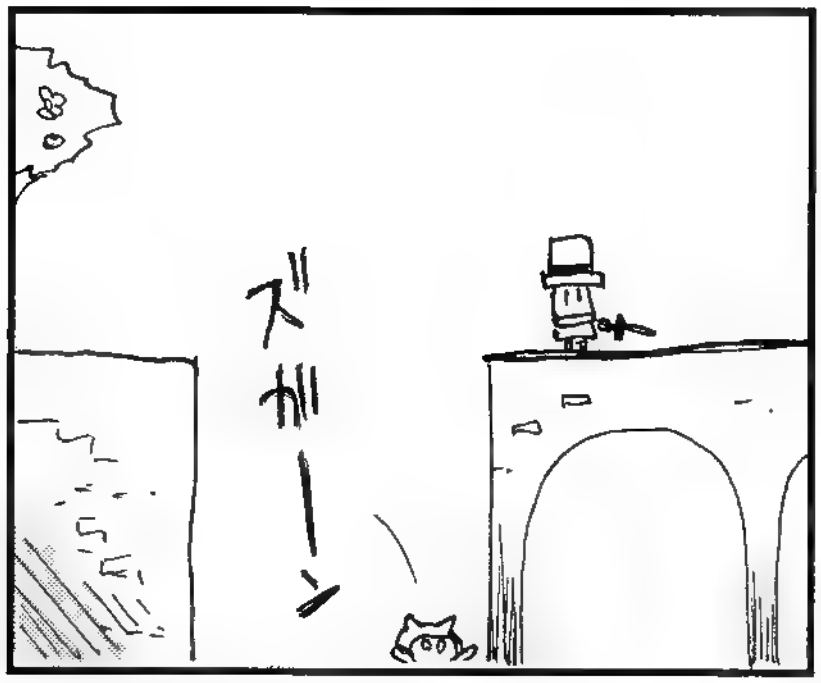
ぽえんっ


YOU CAN'T!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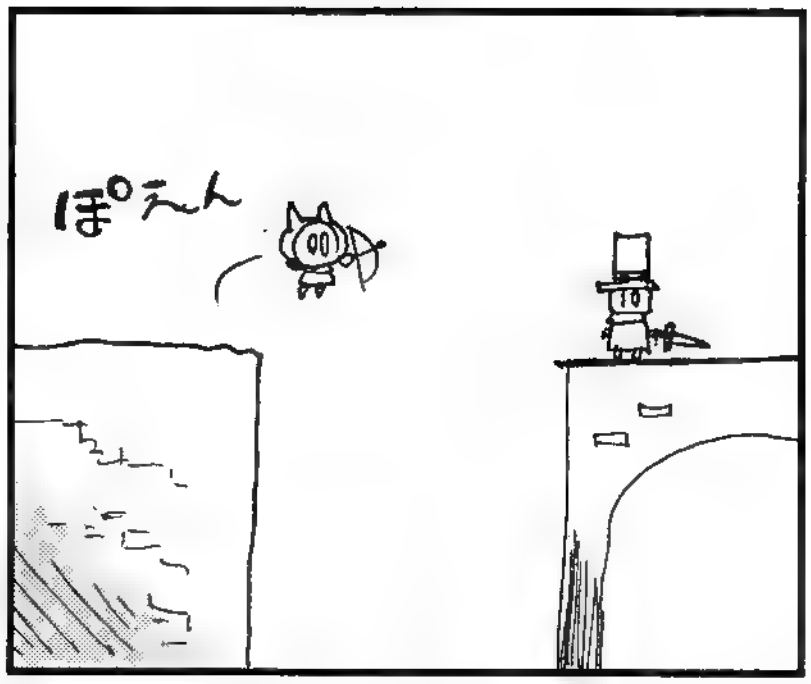
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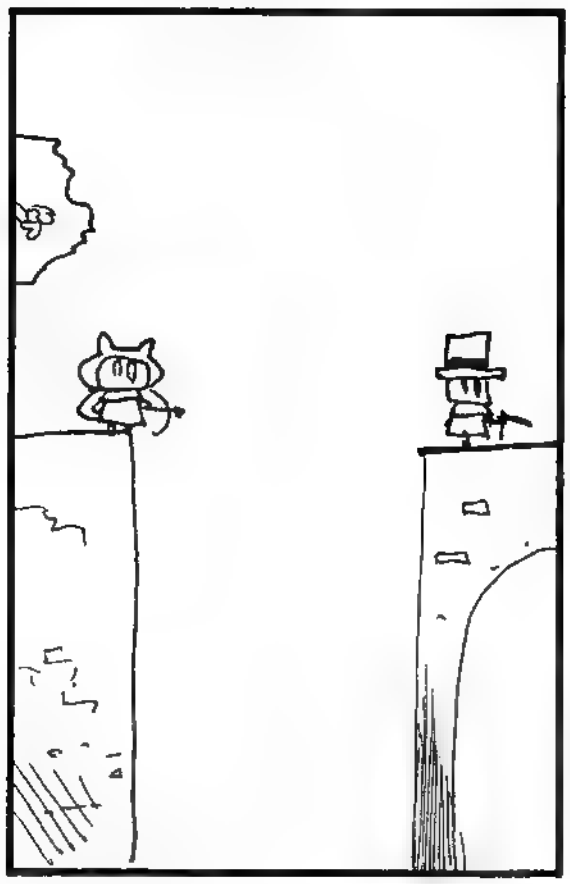
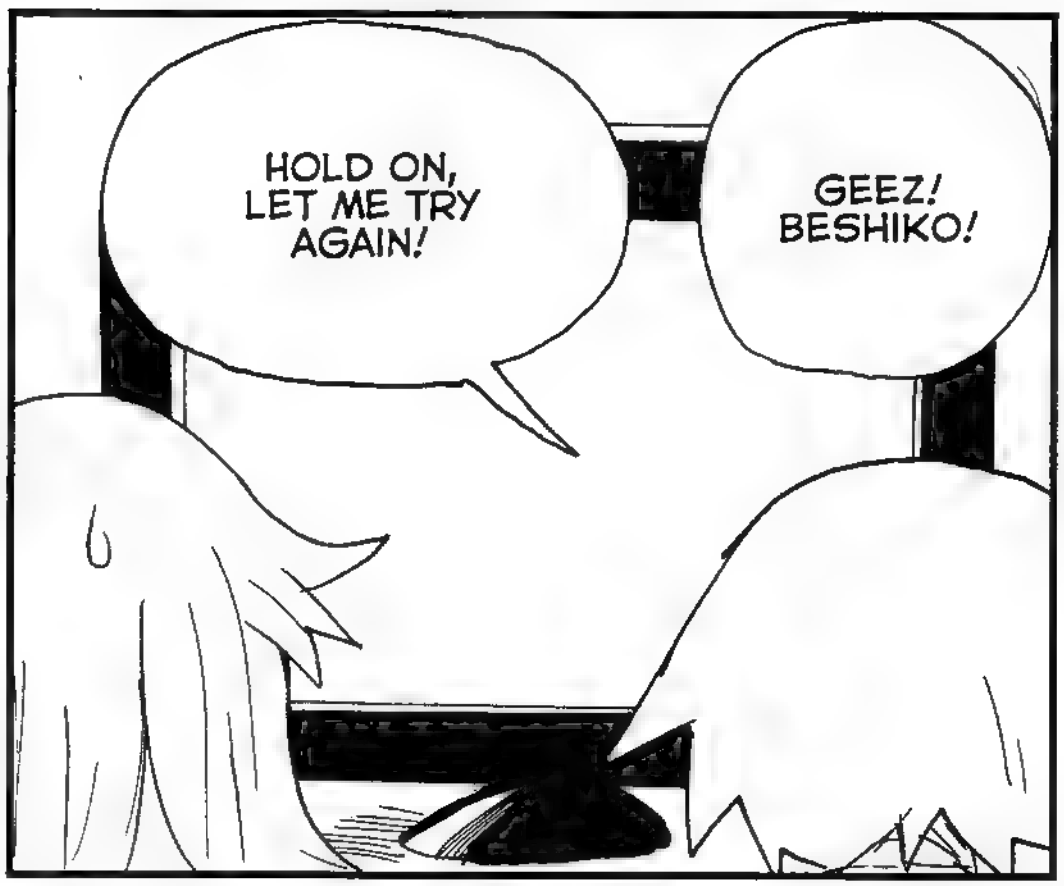
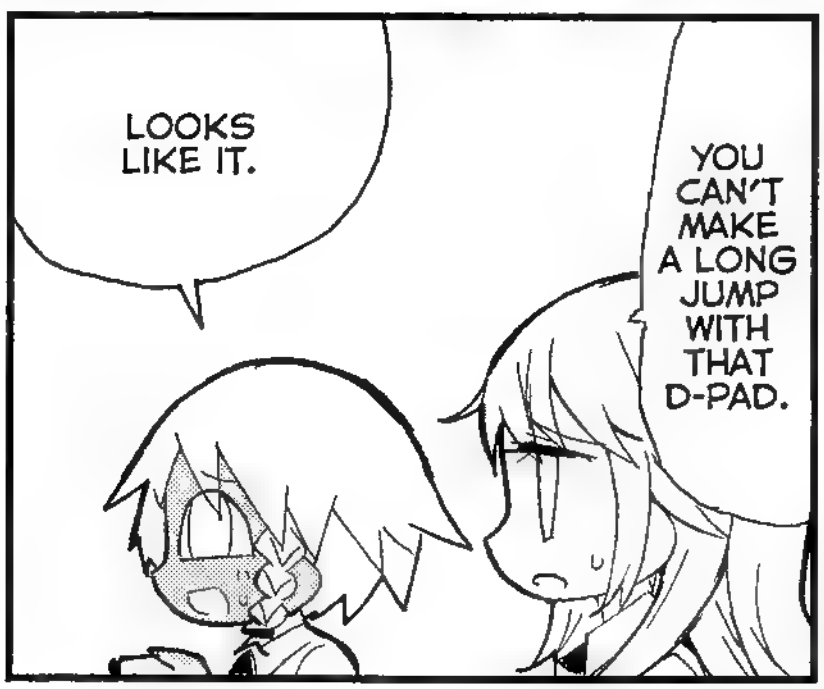
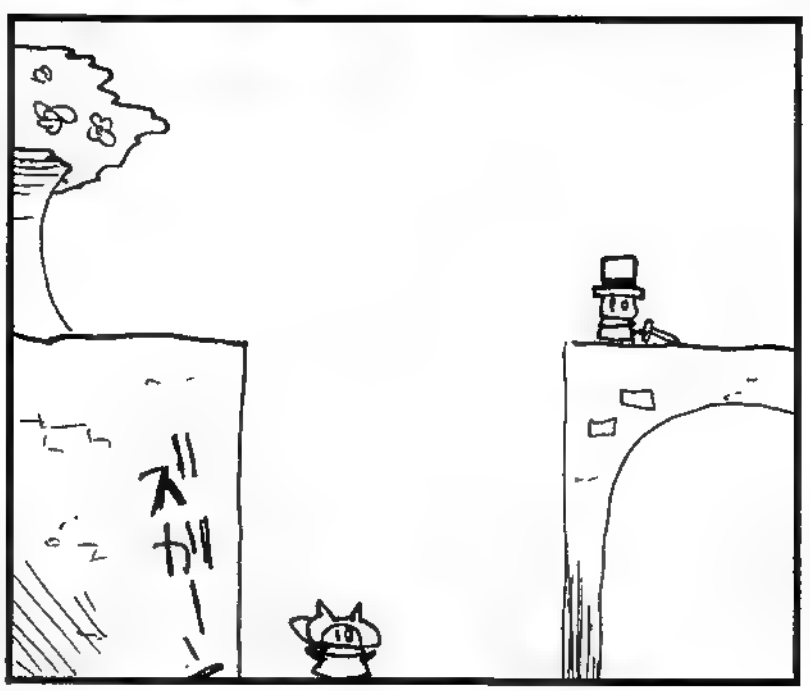



HOLD ON, LET ME TRY AGAIN!
GEEZ! BESHIKO!


LOOKS LIKE IT.
YOU CAN'T MAKE A LONG JUMP WITH THAT D-PAD.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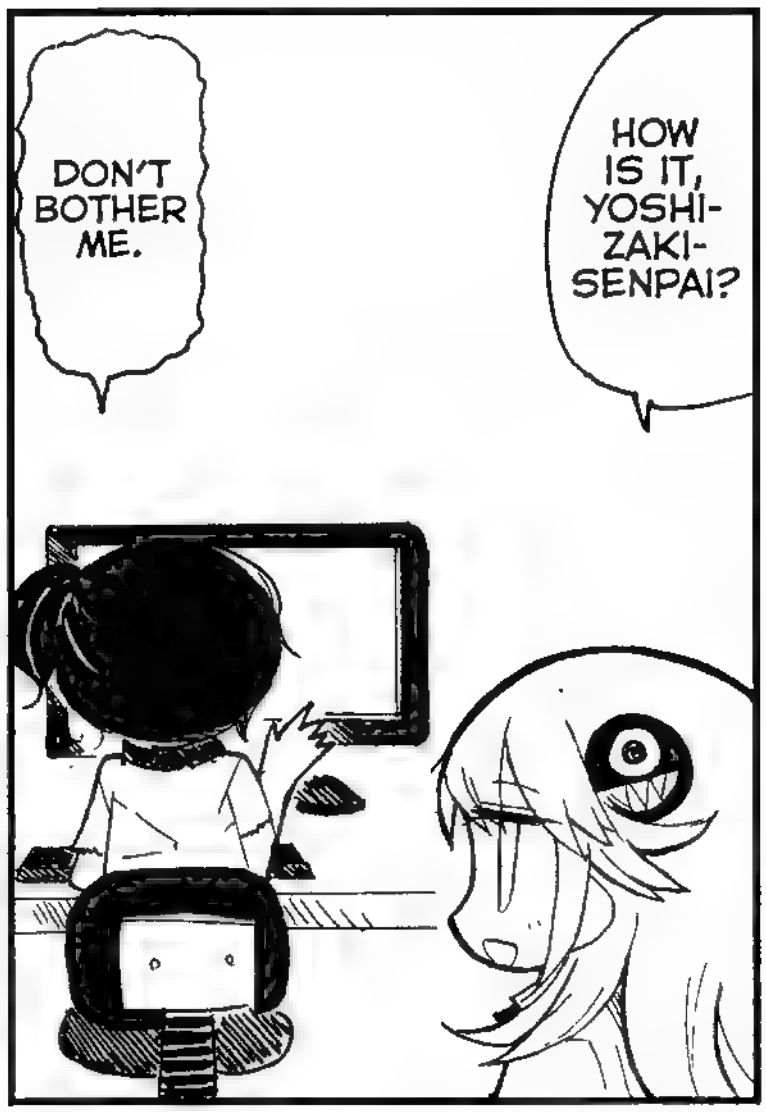
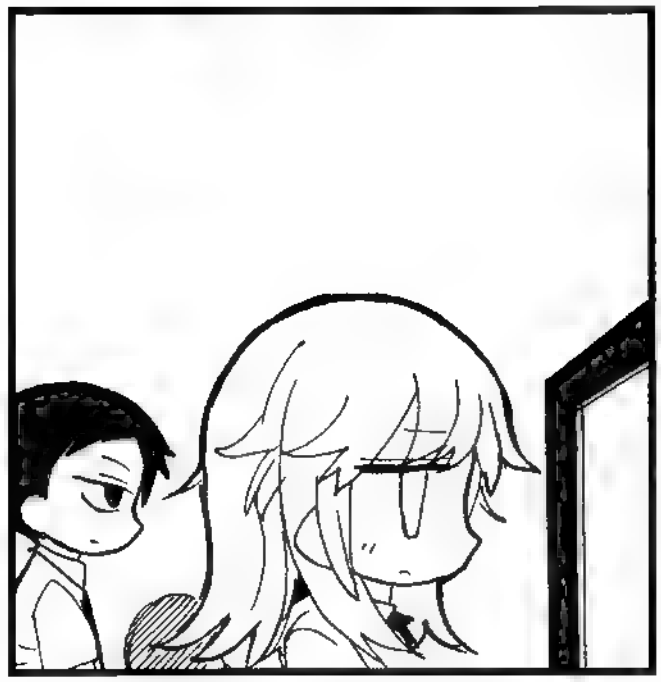
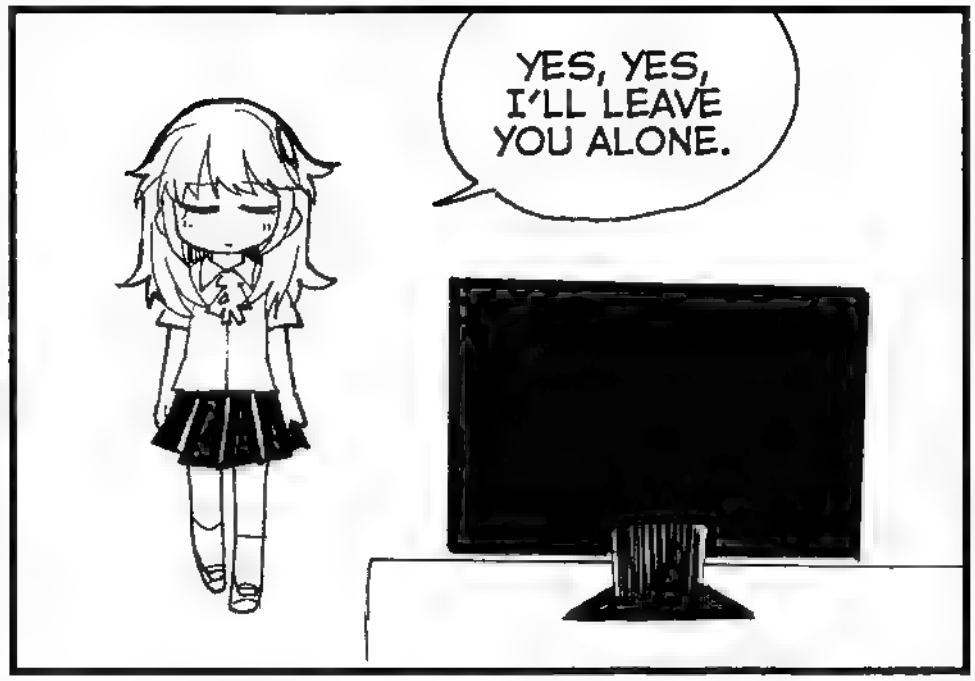
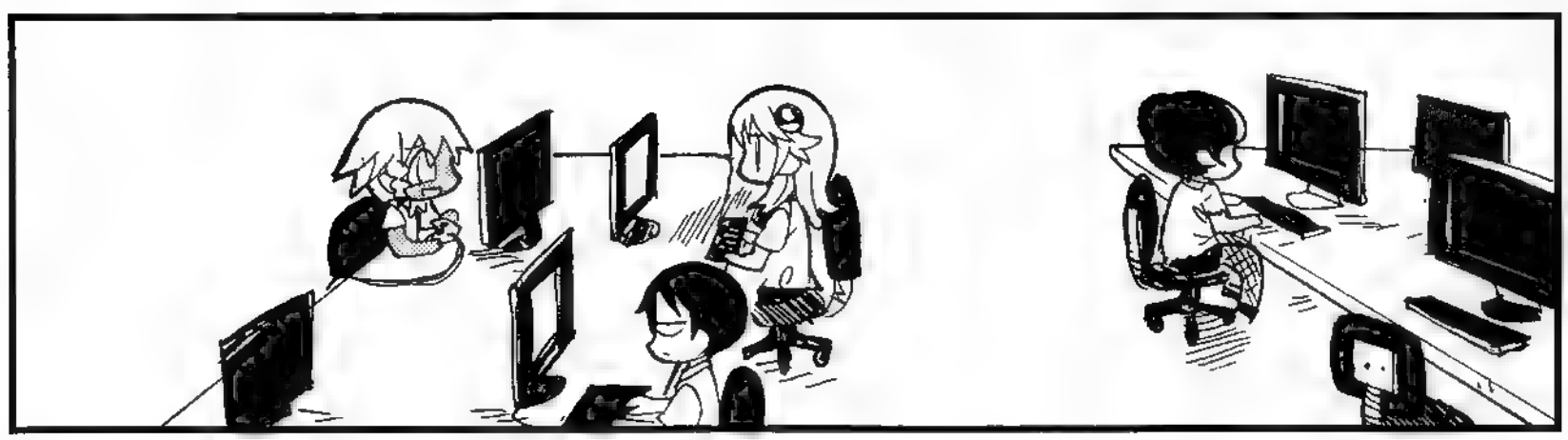

DON'T BOTHER ME.
HOW IS IT, YOSHI-ZAKI-SENPAI?

YEEES.
LET'S TRY THIS AGAIN AFTER.
OH WELL, GUESS WE SHOULD BUY A NEW ONE.



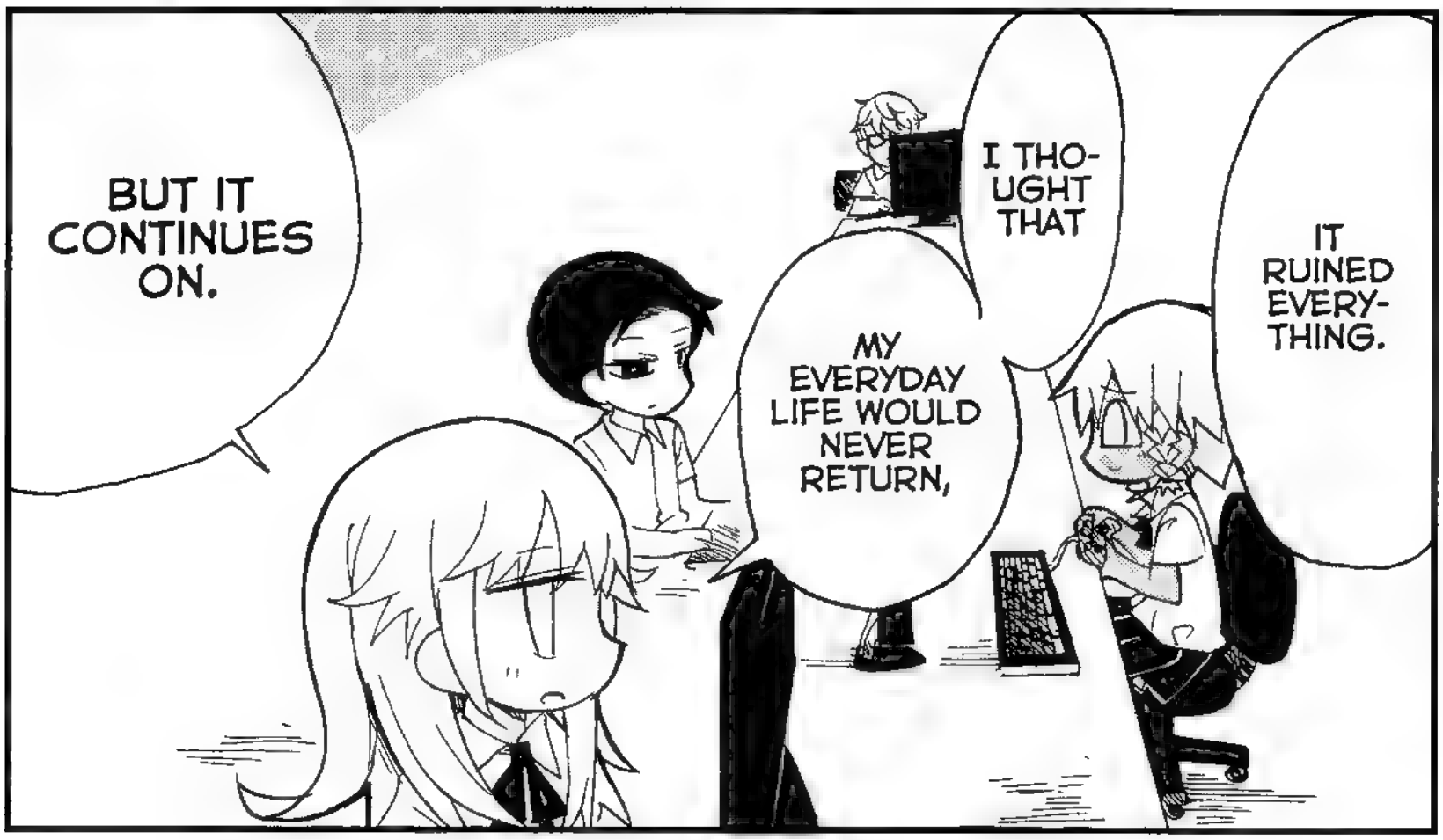

YES, YES, I'LL LEAVE YOU ALONE.



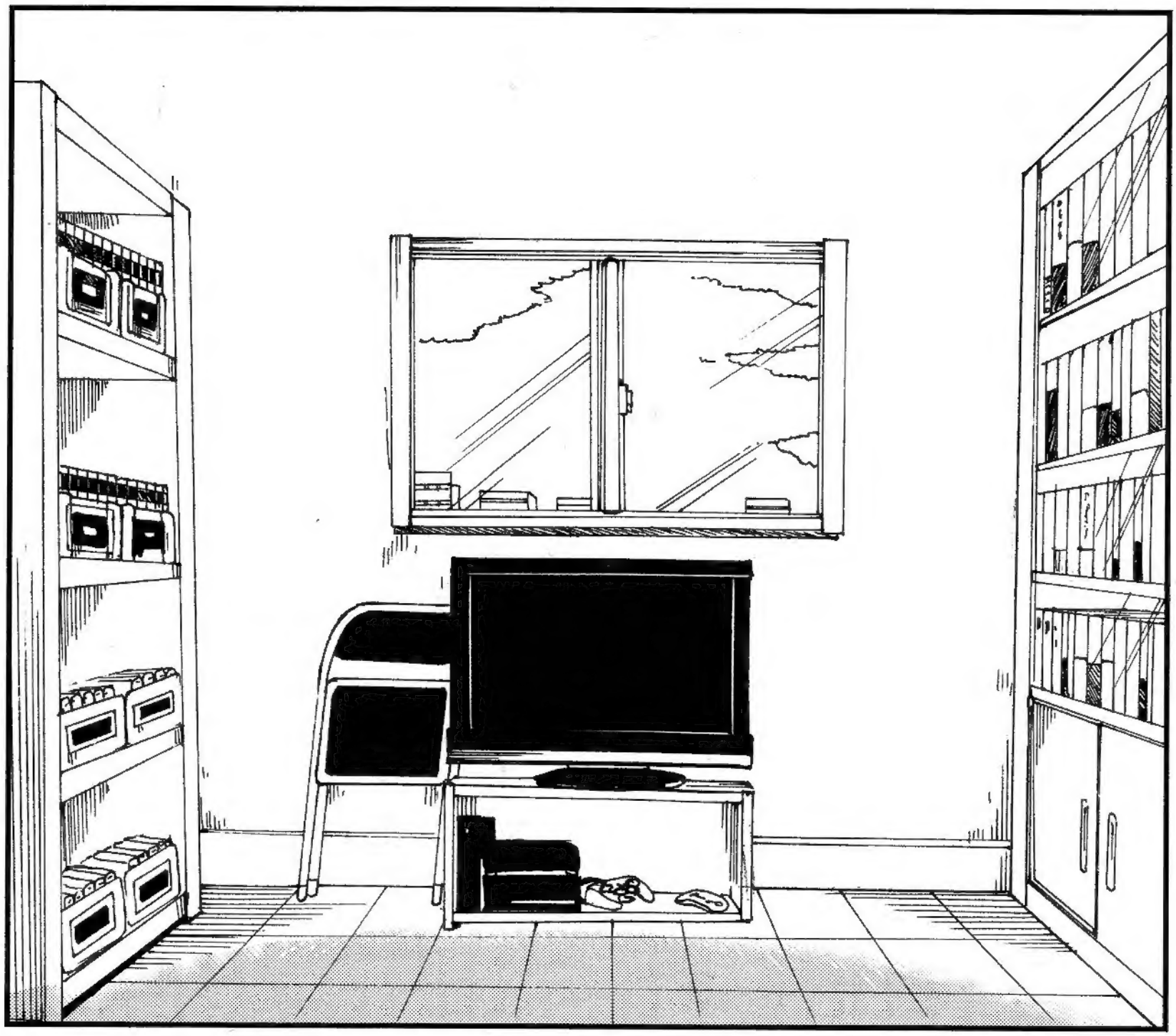
カタ…
カタ…

HUH?
EVERYDAY LIFE SURE IS INCREDIBLE, ISN'T IT?

I MEAN, SOMETHING THAT TERRIBLE HAPPENED.


BUT IT CONTINUES ON.
I THO-UGHT THAT
MY EVERYDAY LIFE WOULD NEVER RETURN,
IT RUINED EVERY-THING.

WELL... I SUPPOSE THAT'S WHY IT'S EVERYDAY...
EVEN IF SOMETHING UNEXPECTED HAPPENED AND RUINED IT, A WHOLE NEW ONE WOULD TAKE ITS PLACE...



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